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THE NAVY AND THE "J.B." PEN. See Page 14.

JOHN BULL

VOL XXV. No. 668. SATURDAY, MARCH 22, 1919. TWOPENCE.

[Registered at the G.P.O. as a Newspaper.]

Lipton's for QUALITY.

The largest Tea Distributors, Manufacturers, and Retailers of Food Products in the World

Tea Merchants by Special Appointment to H.M. King George V.

LIPTON LTD., CITY RD., LONDON, E.C. 1.

Branches and Agencies throughout the United Kingdom.

Edited by HORATIO BOTTOMLEY

SINISTER RUMOUR FROM PARIS

"Grandma won a prize" last month in the

B.D.V.

CIGARETTE SILK PICTURE NEEDLEWORK COMPETITION.

Nearly £11,000 has been given to date.

Save your Pictures and enter at once.

Full Particulars from GODFREY PHILLIPS, Ltd., LONDON, E.1.

Freemans Custard

WITH STEWED RHUBARB

Rhubarb, either "forced" or garden-grown, always provides a welcome and a health-giving dish. Add to it Freemans Custard, and you have a delightful, nourishing sweet for luncheon, dinner or supper.

Freemans Custard, like all other Freemans Food Products, contains definite nourishment in its *purest* and most delicious form.

THE WATFORD MFG. CO. LTD.,
(Chairman, O. HAVINDEN),
Boisseliers (Boy-se-e-a) Chocolates, Vi Cocoa, and Freemans Food Products,
DELECTALAND, WATFORD, ENG.

Made in Delectaland
where Pure Foods come from.

Air:

THREE BLIND MICE.

Three old boots,
See how they shine!
'Tis Day & Martin's makes them so bright,
The leather is soft yet quite watertight,
Did you ever see such a shine of delight
On three old boots?

When George the Third was King, Day and Martin's were making Boot Polish, and have been making it ever since. Thus there is 150 years' accumulated experience in every tin of Day and Martin's.

DAY & MARTIN, LTD., The Boot Polish Specialists, LONDON, E.15. Est. 1770

DAY & MARTIN'S Boot Polish

Song Series No. 19. *W. E. B.*

CRAYOL CIGARETTE CARTOON No. 2.

Little Willie finds the Dutch
Don't appear to like him much,
So he has to buy each day
Cigarettes to give away.
CRAYOLS make him, 'spite his past,
Almost popular at last.

CRAYOL

VIRGINIA CIGARETTES

The only match for a CRAYOL is the one you light it with.

Those who like a cigarette made of Oriental tobaccos should also try "KARAM," 10 for 6d.; 20 for 1s. 1d

Manufactured by MAJOR DRAPKIN & CO., LONDON.
Branch of the United Kingdom Tobacco Company, Ltd.

20 for 10½d.
10 for 5½d.

P.C.B.—54

There are many Cocoas not so good as Rowntree's Elect Cocoa

"We've proved it."

Why pay Fire Insurance Premiums?—see page 16.

JOHN BULL

Come the three corners of the world in arms,
And we shall shock them.

The Paper on which the Sun Never Sets.

Politics without Party—Criticism without Cant:
Without Fear or Favour, Rancour or Rant.

Naught shall make us rue,
If Britain to itself do rest but true.

Vol. XXV. No. 668. Week ending Saturday, March 22nd, 1919. Twopence.

"THE WORLD, THE FLESH, AND THE DEVIL."

[The Editor discourses upon passing events and topics of the day.]

The Queen and the Slums.

Hearty congratulations to her Majesty upon having decided that next time she is taken through the poor districts of London she shall not follow a specially selected route, carefully designed to hide from her the "sin of the slums." We know that this journal is regularly read at the Palace, and we have reason to believe that our recent revelations have touched her Majesty's heart very deeply.

President Wilson.

Let us be candid and recognise the fact that Mr. Wilson has come back to Paris with a greatly impaired authority. That trip to America has helped to clear the air,

Lady Townley.

We have no desire to pursue this matter further, but we do wish that "the British community at the Hague" would select somebody with a more John-Bullish name than Mr. Wiehe to voice their views to us.

Courts-Martial.

The investigations of the Committee which Mr. Churchill, with true instinct, has granted in response to our request, are likely to have a very far-reaching effect. We think the members will be somewhat surprised at some of the evidence we shall produce.

Mr. Joseph Jonas.

So the Home Office does not propose to take steps to denaturalise this gentleman, "who has not shown himself to be in any way disloyal to the King." That, we suppose, is why he was heavily fined, and also deprived of his knighthood. Come, come, Mr. Shortt!

"F. E."

We were privileged to be one of a small party of old friends of the new Lord Chancellor, which "dined" him in the House of Commons one night last week—when Mr. Bonar Law, who presided, made a little presentation in our names. "'F. E.' is dead—Long live Birkenhead!" expressed the general sense of the gathering.

"A. G. G." Again.

Our friend "A.G.G.," of the *Daily News*, cannot keep us out of his weekly article. We are to him as was the head of King Charles to Mr. Dick—his latest protest being that, whilst the House of Commons is empty when the expenditure of hundreds of millions and "policies affecting the whole future of Society are being discussed," it fills when we "get up to slay the Hun anew and foment discord with America." Well, without admitting the soft impeachment, we prefer to foment discord with America rather than to stimulate concord with Germany.

General Townshend.

So "no suitable post" can be found for the Hero of Kut at present! Woe to the soldier who dares to say boo to the official goose!

"Missing" Men.

A reader makes the suggestion that money prizes should be offered for the discovery of "missing" soldiers found in Germany. Not a bad idea.

Cause and Effect.

Our recent article "Shall We Lose Canada?" soon had its effect, for within a few days of its appearance the whole of the restrictions on imports were removed!

Scandinavia.

But we protest against the ruin of our own paper mills caused by the unrestricted exportation of paper from Scandinavia—which has no special claim upon British consideration.

A Pious Pun.

The *Primitive Methodist Leader*, describing our "sneers" at the League of Nations nostrum as "downright Paganism," suggests that when the new Cromwell arrives on the scene he will point to us instead of to the mace, and exclaim, "Take away that babbler." *Very* primitive!

A Public Defender.

Our plea for the appointment of such an official was emphasised the other day, when a prisoner, charged with attempted murder, told the Judge he was undefended, and was invited by the Bench to pick out one of the Counsel in Court — for a guinea! "But don't choose Sir Archibald Bodkin—he is far too busy," added his Lordship!

Stealing Our Thunder.

The way in which our points are absorbed by other journals is becoming somewhat monotonous. Here we have the *Morning Post*, for instance, telling us that whilst Britain is discussing League of Nations ideas and other fantastic theories, America is "scooping the pool." We seem to have come across that phrase in the course of the Debate on the Address!

More Clerical Praise.

The Rev. J. E. Rattenbury, the famous Wesleyan Minister who succeeded the Rev. Hugh Price Hughes as Superintendent of the West London Mission, speaking at St. Paul's, Covent Garden, the other day, was good enough to say "No religious newspaper to-day has the influence on the people of this country that JOHN BULL has." Well, our religion is a very simple one—a fair chance for all, and a helping hand to the under dog!

Jack Johnson.

So this dreadful fellow now admits the truth of the charge we brought against him four years ago of accepting money to lose a fight. He was, in truth, a very "black" champion!

"If You See It——"

It is the old story. Some weeks ago we exposed the scandal of the Chepstow National Shipyard and of the Slough Motor Repair Depot. And now the general Press, led by the *Times*, is in full cry. As long as things are put right, let anybody have the credit.

The American Soldier.

Apropos of Mr. Wilson's offensive statement that "the American soldier is unlike any other soldier," a British Tommy, now in Paris, says: "Quite so; they have 2,000 Military Police, in squads of a dozen, whereas a British 'M.P.' is not seen, except at the stations." But perhaps Mr. Wilson never walks abroad.

Mr. Hearst's Candour.

We all know that Mr. Hearst is no lover of England, but he rather gives the game away when in a recent article he says: "The policy of the United States should be one of enlightened self-interest." It must be very annoying to the President.

The Navy Estimates.

In his excellent speech, Mr. Walter Long showed a fine contempt for the League of Nations and Freedom of the Seas nonsense. "We must keep up a Navy adequate to our needs," said he more than once. And nobody said anything about America's shipbuilding programme. We are so friendly, you see!

Ellen Sullivan.

We have not heard the last of this case. The Home Secretary has promised to look further into it, and we shall bring it up again on the Home Office Estimates. Meanwhile, we continue to receive evidences of the widespread interest our disclosures have aroused—one protest being signed by over 700 women workers at the Park Royal Munition Factory.

Socialist Slush.

Passing Bow Street Police Court the other day during the hearing of the charge against William Watson, we found a gentleman busy selling copies of the *Socialist*, in which we came across the question "How comes it that Mr. Lloyd George, of all others, who for the past four years in his murderous lust for blood, has been urging innocent men back to barbarism" etc.? We observe that the *Socialist* is the "official organ of the Socialist Labour Party." We can understand why none of its candidates got in at the recent election.

Watch Japan.

The Japanese are our good allies, but that is no reason why they should be permitted to pursue their policy of peaceful penetration in this country, their cotton piece goods being offered at prices our Lancashire manufacturers cannot possibly compete with. We fought for the Japanese as much as we fought for ourselves. They must not exploit us in return.

Poser for a Vicar.

The Rev. A. C. Don, Vicar of St. Peter's, Norton (Yorks), recently signed a petition in favour of immediately releasing "conchies." He had a poser to answer on a Sunday evening later. "Supposing all men had been of their way of thinking," demanded one of the congregation, "where would our wives and families have been?" "That is a question I am totally unable to answer," replied the Vicar. It is not really a hard one. Let the Vicar think again.

Ailing Aliens.

It is pointed out to us by a gentleman concerned in British concert direction that 75 per cent. of aliens examined under the Military Service Acts suffered from tuberculosis and other contagious diseases. Therefore, asks he, why should aliens be allowed to play in the orchestras of cinemas and restaurants as they do? "Clear them out. We don't want them or their music. What we want is the British artist for the British public." Especially if they get their hair cut.

Games for Sundays.

More games and less gammon; that is the avowed object of the proposed Sunday Games Association which Major S. R. Noble informs us is presently to be inaugurated at "a big meeting in London." To be precise, the Major defines the objects, among others, as (1) "to encourage and promote the Sunday playing of cricket, football, and all healthy outdoor games," and (2) "to press for the repeal of any laws which check any form of recreation on Sundays which is permissible on other days." Obviously the Association is out for a furious fight, but we hope it will succeed in spite of all puritans and killjoys.

Coal at Guist.

Probably Sir Evan Jones, the new Coal Controller, hasn't heard of Guist, in Norfolk. It is shivering for want of coal. "We get 1 cwt. once in 10 or 12 days," is the bitter cry. "In about five days it is gone—then we all go fireless till the coalman comes again nearly a week later." A woman with a baby of eight-months wrote to the local Fuel Controller, requesting a permit for an extra half-hundredweight to keep the infant warm. She got the permit, but on last reports she was still waiting for the coalman. Two old ladies of 80 live together in a cottage; they cannot get a spark of fire. Can't somebody get a hustle on?

The Guilty Goads.

It wasn't the Kaiser who made the war. It was "JOHN BULL" and Lord Northcliffe. This, among other things, is what an ex-Hun officer with whom he was billeted in Rhineland told Mr. H. Bourdon, of Walthamstow. According to him, every soldier who volunteered was a disciple bound hand and foot to JOHN BULL, which was all lies—every word. "So bitter was he that, had Germhuny won the war, I can picture you, Mr. Editor, being drawn round the streets of every town in Germany, and eventually burned in Berlin instead of sitting in the House of Commons." A pretty picture!

Turning Off the Old 'Uns.

The adage that "youth will be served" often means that old age is served badly. It has happened at the Enfield Lock Small Arms Factory, where old hands, skilled men who have worked there all their lives, have been turned adrift. The younger men, coming on the scene during the war, are retained. The veterans protest they are still capable of the best work, and resent their dismissal, especially as they depart empty-handed.

Hungrateful.

Paul Henri Kretchner, a German tailor of West Ealing, received a permit to measure some schoolchildren at Arundel for clothes, on condition that he reported himself at the police station on arrival there. He told the police he would be too busy, and did not report himself till he returned to London—a defiance which has cost him 40s. and costs. Why is he allowed to go hither and thither taking bread out of the mouth of a British tailor?

Pity the Poor Landlord!

It is an owner of cottage property who appeals for pity. His houses are let at 2s. 6d. a week or less (not in London!) and he has, he complains, to pay rates and do all repairs—which are dear just now. Also he pays water rate, insurance, land tax, and Income Tax—if he has any money to pay with. His tenants agree that another 6d. a week would be reasonable, but he must not impose more than 10 per cent.—say 3d. each cottage! We print his story, because it is always best to hear both sides.

"Niggardly Alms."

Under the above heading we reproved the Trustees of Lee's Rest Houses for the Aged Poor, at Hull, who fasten upon the Old Age Pension of the inmates and deduct it from their weekly grants. They even took the extra half-crown, so that single inmates only get 2s. 6d. from the Trustees, while married couples, if pensioned, get nothing. However, our remarks have had an effect, for the Trustees are now paying out 1s. a week more to each person—not much, but it will buy a little bread to stave off hunger.

A Tip to Sailors.

During the war the Board of Trade allowed under certain conditions the Plimsoll marks, or loading lines of ships, to be raised, thus permitting them to carry more cargo. Now, however, the marks are to be restored—but we have reason to fear that some shipowners will try to dodge this really necessary provision for safety, the marks being quite high enough. Seamen should immediately report to the Board of Trade any case of infringement of the new rule, and meantime should refuse to sail on the vessel.

That Shortage of Paper.

This from a correspondent having inside knowledge of the Ordnance Survey Office, Southampton. "At a time when printers were almost at a standstill for want of paper, hundreds of tons were wasted in this Department through bad management and lack of supervision." And again, "It was quite a usual thing to set up in type a booklet of 24 pages, pull one proof, and then—break up the type. The proof was then despatched to the Stationery Office to be given out to tender. Thus the major portion of the work, the typesetting, had to be done all over again, when we could have run off thousands of the booklets on the machines at our disposal." Poor old Public!

MacGruber and MacSchmieg.

A Corstorphine reader sends us a Press cutting "Edinburgh Pork Butchers Fined." It concerns three men who recently pleaded guilty to having sold rationed food in excess of the number of coupons returned to the local Food Control committee. These are the names of the Edinburgh Pork Butchers: Christen Gruber, Frederich Gruber and Adolph Schmieg. Hoch, hoch!

"Bilked of Their Bonus."

Officers and some others had their war-risk bonus—£3 a month—stopped, while their ship, the *Beacon Grange*, was in dock in Cardiff. That fact has been previously stated by us. To remove possible misapprehension, it seems necessary to make clear that this stoppage was in obedience to direct instructions from the Ministry of Shipping, and the owners were in no way accountable for it. Indeed, they had no option but to obey orders.

"Worse than Murder."

The Biggleswade Board of Guardians think that Stephen Carter, the poor boy who almost died of exposure in a wood, came by all his chapter of misfortunes through being of weak mind. It will be remembered that he had such terrible chilblains on his feet that they were almost rotting. The Board thought the farmer, who was fined £10, had been harshly dealt with. Dear us! It makes our heart bleed to hear that poor Carter is returning to the tender care of such "Guardians of the Poor."

A Man Who Vanished.

The Hedon man, named Easter, chronicled by us as being remanded on a charge of failing to report for military service, and who has returned and reopened his barbering business just lately, has more luck than he merits. The police said they were instructed to ask for his discharge, and the Bench accordingly complied. It seems queer law that permits a man after disappearing during the war to come back and start his shop as though nothing had happened. Yet one who has fought may not open a new business without a permit.

Struck by the Strike.

Six weeks of the boilermakers' strike, still going on, in the Bristol Channel, has hit hard a large number of men in other trades who turned up for work as usual, but were told there was none. Refused out-of-work donation on account of the strike, they appealed to the Court of Referees. In the end, certain men won, such as ships' painters, fitters, and helpers. But the platers and other helpers are still denied the pay. They have no connection whatever with the Boilermakers' Society, and are as much entitled to relief as the men who receive it. To admit the claims of some workers and refuse the others is illogical and unreasonable.

Inside Information.

Some light on the causes of telegraphic delay is shed by a report (unofficial) from the Central Office. "Thousands of O.H.M.S. messages flood the lines which have no claim to urgency and would be well served by a postage stamp." There is a traffic rule "to equalise delay," which means that less-busy offices are told to wait until their delay equals that of the chief centres. A plea is put in for the over-burdened telegraphists, whose work is nerve-racking. It affects their health to the extent of 300 absentees in a day, while "many lose their balance, and have to retire more or less insane." What a picture!

"Good in Parts."

"Potatoes, a6 grown, £4 per ton, slightly diseased; much cheaper food for pigs than chats; suitable for Fried Fish Shops.—J. Thistleton Smith, Oak Street, Fakenham"—thus an advertisement in the issue of the *Eastern Daily Press* for March 5th. And there are people who wonder why there is so much sickness and disease about. Now that Bishops are complaining that they cannot afford to extend to curates the old-time hospitality, we may expect to read an up-to-date version of the egg-story.

An Echo of Silvertown.

The dreadful explosion at Silvertown left many sad memories. It has also bred discontent in Amelia Street, which was entirely wrecked. Thirty sturdy tenants, however, had the pluck to stay on, each living in one room, boarded up, curtained, and dark all day. They paid full rent, 7s. a week, all the while. After many weary months the houses were rebuilt, and somebody from the Ministry of Munitions, urged by petitions, promised those tenants a grant on account of their rent. But not a cent has been paid. £10 each would not be excessive—£5 would be accepted. Cannot the Ministry keep its promise?

Another "Song of the Shirt."

Australia is certainly not "God's own country" for women workers. We have before us the report of the Australian Court at Perth, on the "Whiteworkers." A dressmaker with seven years' experience earns £1 4s. per week. A girl making shirts, flannels, blouses and underclothes on piecework has had 5 years' experience, and averages 16s. 1½d. A trouser-finisher (5 years), earns £1, pays 18s. for her board, and receives half from her parents—suppose they could not help her! Two dressmakers, with 6 and 5 years' experience, get respectively 17s. 6d. and 15s. a week. Until things are improved, don't talk to us about emigration!

Babies or Nappers?

A great question confronts the dweller in the Severn Valley—whether, in view of the extreme difficulty in obtaining milk locally, it will be possible to rear the baby on milk chocolate. For we are assured on good authority that the whole of the Valley from Wootton-under-Edge to Gloucester, including the Berkeley Vale, is being drained of its life-giving fluid by Messrs. Cadbury of chocolate fame. The farmer naturally sells in the best market, and considerations of "Child Welfare" are likely to have little weight when he can obtain from the chocolate manufacturers a higher price for his milk than the "controlled" figure. But what says the Food Controller?

Coal for Nursing Homes.

Why are not the Nursing Homes in London allowed their proper supply of coal? We know of one case where a home has gone short throughout the winter, and is even now being told that the householder must come first. Considering that some of the patients have undergone severe operations, and others are very near death, this is about as brutally callous as can be imagined.

"Tommy and the Tombola."

Our recent par under the above heading has elicited from the Lord Mayor of Liverpool an assurance that the Fund in question is in process of distribution—that is to say, "a bureau for this purpose was opened . . . some months ago, the staff of which are daily engaged in receiving applications, making necessary inquiries, and granting monetary assistance to returned prisoners who are in urgent need." We are glad of this assurance—but "he who 'gives quickly' &c.!"

Our Free Fire Insurance Scheme.
27 CLAIMS ALREADY PAID.
For Registration Forms, see page 16.

Fearsome Footlers.

This is a sample of what an Army official can do when he tries: "Mrs. H. Simpson, Viewpark Gardens, Bonnyrigg. Pl as forward your Marriag C rtificat to this Offic for r gistration. It will b r tur d to you in du cours . N.B. This paper should be returned to this office with the certificates. Blandford, Dorset . . . . H. Auliff, 2 Li ut. for Offic r i/c. R.A.F. R cords. Th Offic r i/c RA.F. R cords, Blandford, Dors t. C rtificat s h r with r lativ to No.....Dat.....Signatur ....." As a specimen of official cyclostyled typewriting, this must come near to winning the bun.

Profiteering in Pork.

As a profiteer in pig, George Edward Fulkes, the butcher in Luton Road, Chatham, would probably have done himself exceedingly well if he hadn't been found out. On a leg of pork his assistant charged an ex-soldier £1 1s. 6d. instead of 17s. 6d., and Fulkes took the money at the pay desk with the unwondering innocence of Mary's little lamb. When the purchaser returned to the shop with a Food Inspector, he asserts that Fulkes abused him. "Appreciating the difficulties in these days," the Magistrate fined Fulkes £2 and costs, and if Fulkes doesn't appreciate the Magistrate he ought to, for only a few days previously that discerning cadi had fined a woman £10 for charging a ha'penny too much for a tin of milk. But the moral for Fulkes is obvious. Whatever else he does, let him avoid the tinned milk business.

A Squeegee Pusher's Plaint.

We never had a cut at the scavenger's profession, but nevertheless we can sympathise with the member of it who, after serving the Shoreditch Borough Council faithfully and well for twenty-six years, and having contributed two sons to the Army, one to the Navy, and a strapping lass to the Land Army, finds himself past work and is granted—or, rather, is insulted by—an allowance of 5s. weekly in return for a generation of honest labour. We won't go so far as to ask the Council to be generous, but we think it might at least be just.

Scandal on Scandal.

A poor woman, whose brave boy was killed just five days before the signing of the Armistice, tells us that he was a P.O. messenger at the outbreak of war, was promoted to assistant postman, and received postman's pay prior to joining the Colours. On enlistment, however, the Post Office seems to have forgotten his rank, for his mother received 3s. a week only, which on enquiry she was informed represented his wages *as a boy messenger*, less Army pay. So far, so bad. But worse was to follow. After receiving £3 3s., she tells us, "an official called on me from Paddington, and said I had no right to the money I had been receiving, and that I must pay it back. I have paid it back at the rate of 1s. weekly, all I could afford." We know the poor woman speaks truth—she sends us the receipts. Comment is superfluous.

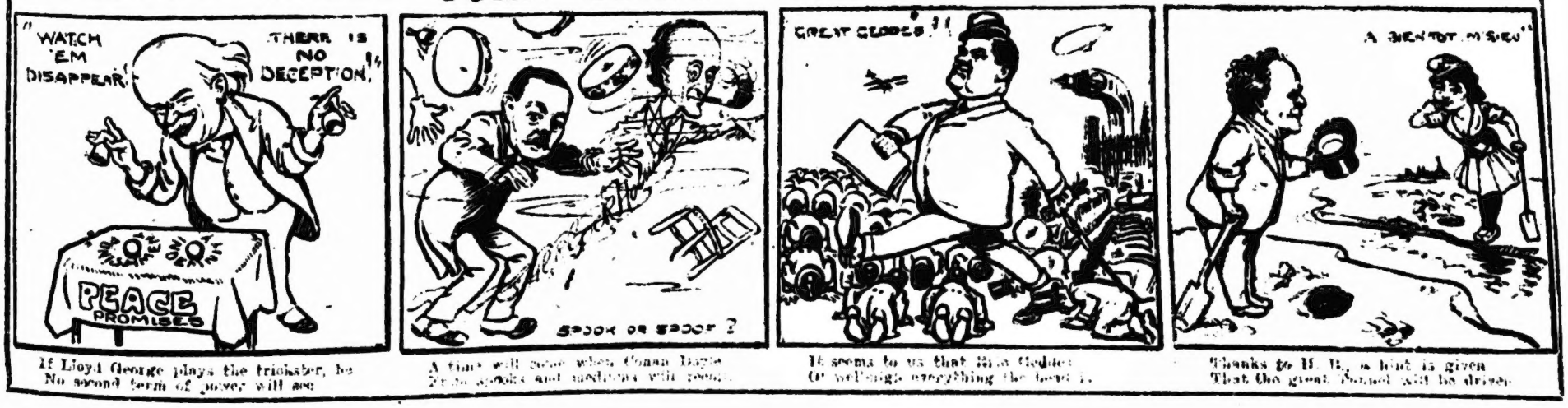
Honour at Stake.

A piteous story reaches us from Liverpool. A poor old lady of 68 lies bedridden, dependent financially on a Government allowance of 13s. a week, and physically on a daughter who cannot leave her for a moment and so is unable to obtain employment. The Government allowance is in respect of a son, the sole support of the family, killed in action just after gaining his sergeant's stripes. An old sailor, he had subscribed regularly to the Firemen's Union. But, alas, two sixpenny stamps are missing from his Union book of vouchers which, hurrying off to the front, he must have mislaid. The Union carefully refrains from declaring that these subscriptions have not been paid, but the little vouchers must first be found before the bereaved can receive the benefit due. It is a mean, a cruel, advantage to take of two lone women, so handicapped that neither can leave the house to fight the case. We have sent the poor souls £3 from our Fund, pending the Union's reconsideration of its action.

Waiting to be Won.

Don't miss the opportunity of winning £1,000, the First Prize offered by the best "Ballot" this week.

"JOHN BULL'S" WEEKLY CINEMA.



If Lloyd George plays the trickster, he
No second term of power will see

A time will come when Conan Doyle
[illegible]

It seems to us that Miss Geddes
Or well-nigh everything the loves [illegible]

Thanks to H. B., a hint is given
That the great Armed will be driven

Candid Communications.——

This space is devoted to Open Letters to Celebrities, Notorieties and occasionally Nonentities.

To the Right Hon. Winston Churchill, M.P., Secretary of State for War.

MY DEAR CHURCHILL,—I do wish you would look round to ascertain who is chucking away war medals. A patient in the County Asylum, Prestwich, a "conchy," sent there from Wormwood Scrubbs where he had been serving a sentence of six months for disobedience to lawful commands, and now found to be of unsound mind, was the other day the recipient of a war medal for "services rendered to King and Country." It may be that the lunatic at Prestwich and the medal distributor at the War Office are in the same lodge. JOHN BULL.

To Councillor J. Smalley, Board of Guardians, Lincoln.

DEAR SNIP,—I have often heard it said that a tailor is the ninth part of a man, but am inclined to think that in your case the proportion is too great by half. You objected to Mr. Vickers' (one of the officials of the Board) War Bonus being brought up to the full standard, saying, "It's all very well to say he has been in the Army and bled for his country. We know what that means to-day. It's all twaddle, that is." It occurs to me that you retired from the tailoring business in time, for no self-respecting citizen of Lincoln would clothe himself in garments made by a man capable of referring so contemptuously to the saviours of his country. Lincoln should blush for you! JOHN BULL.

To Thomas Banks (14), 42, Bradley Lane, Standish, near Wigan.

MY DEAR TOMMY,—You needn't get swelled head because I say so and because a great many other people think so, but when I read of your exploit in stripping and diving into the Worthington reservoir in an effort to save the life of one of your chums, I have really no other alternative than to request the Royal Humane Society to consider your conduct with a view to promotion. If the Society do not make a fuss of you, I shall be as cross with them as I am pleased with you. Bravo! JOHN BULL.

To Alderman Robert Styring, J.P., Chairman, Licensing Committee, Court House, Sheffield.

DEAR MR. ALDERMAN,—Though it is a long time since I tripped it in the dreamy valse, and the giddy jaz is a never-never dance for me, I do like to see the young 'uns and owd 'uns and the thin 'uns taking the floor. That's why I am sorry to see you and your colleagues putting up the bar so unnecessarily against dances. A 10.30 p.m. shut-down is surely puritanical in its unsympathetic ferocity. Are you in your second childhood? JOHN BULL.

To Sheriff Syme, Perth, Scotland.

DEAR SHERIFF,—Have you a daughter? I wonder! Are men with daughters of their own ever quite so cruel? A poor betrayed girl, Joan McCormick, suffering agonies of mind as well as of body, gives birth to a child before its time. Perhaps you did not visualise her terrible position; and how impossible it was for her, quite unaided, to give her child the care your daughter's child (if she had one) would get. Anyhow the child died, and you condemn the girl to a year's imprisonment for having "negligently failed to call for assistance at birth, and failed to give the child nourishment and care." Poor, poor creature! How had you the heart? JOHN BULL.

To the Right Hon. Lord Emmott, Director, War Trade Department.

DEAR LORD EMMOTT,—My word, you have "been and gone and done it"! In order "to encourage the export of textiles" you have actually condescended to announce you are prepared to consider applications for general licences, so as to permit firms to export small parcels "not exceeding the total value of £5"—one parcel per client per fortnight! And you think that trumpery concession is a "relief" to the textile trade. It strikes me you have been worried into doing something, and have done it, with much pain. If this ridiculous mouse is the best you can bring forth, your department is aching for demobilisation. JOHN BULL.

To Inspector Egan, Clones, Belfast.

DEAR SIR,—I should like to shake you by the hand. The Magistrates of Clones Petty Sessions who sentenced a girl of twelve to be birched in the presence of a policeman, ought to be birched publicly once a day for a twelvemonth. The dirty pigs! And when you manfully persisted that the order was illegal, they must needs go to the parents' house to see the birching done. We hope the parents will have the law on them. JOHN BULL.

To Alderman Geo. W. Taylor, Chairman, Gas Committee, Chelmsford.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN,—The male employees of the Corporation Gas Dept. having threatened to strike if their demands for higher wages were not met, your Committee, I understand, promptly granted them all they asked; but you were pleased to be facetious at the expense of the two women employees, saying you did not think trouble need be feared from them, as they were about to enter the matrimonial union. This fatuous observation of yours was greeted with laughter, which does not speak very highly for the standard of chivalry existing in Chelmsford official circles. Don't indulge in puerile jokes! JOHN BULL.

To Sir Edwin Cornwall, Chairman, National Health Insurance Commission.

DEAR SIR EDWIN,—There is an old fellow, Henry Fields, of Lye, near Stourbridge, who is still at work, though 72. Only recently he discovered his correct age. He has been, inadvertently, paying his usual weekly contributions for 13 months after reaching the allotted span of three score and ten. He has applied to you for a return of the money overpaid by him. You have sent him the amount of 10 weeks' contributions on his last incompleted card, but he hesitates about accepting that, for he wants the balance. Be just to this worthy veteran; pay up and look big. JOHN BULL.

"THE SIN OF THE SLUMS."

WOMAN & CHILD SUFFOCATED IN FILTHY HOVEL.

This is what housing is like at Bishop Auckland. Emily Alice Elwell, a widow of 35, and her eight-year-old daughter, were suffocated by the smoke from the chimney of their own little room. The chimney was a six-inch drain pipe. The foreman of the Jury had been to visit a former tenant, and had hardly been able to see him for the smoke. The men who found the bodies spoke of the clothes having been torn as from the struggle for breath. The air was too foul for the men to stay there long. Mr. Thomas Henry King, the father of the poor woman, told the Coroner that the mother and her children lived in the front room of the cottage, where a bed was made up of a couch and some chairs. Soot hung all over the room, and was thick on the ceiling and the chimney piece. It was rather foolish to ask him if he thought it a fit place to live in. The point was that there was no other house-room to be got. But he said one dreadful, touching thing. He said that when last he saw her, on the Sunday night, she was singing to the children. Well might the CORONER say: "What? Singing in that dirt and filth and smoke?" He added that it made one despair of our boasted civilisation. By Heaven! it does. And yet the Government won't demobilise men needed for the building trades. Meanwhile, we want to know the name of the landlord and what is being done to him. And we also want to know what is to be done to the Sanitary Authorities. The jury recommended that the attention of the Rural District Council should be called to the matter. But what about the police?

THE SMOULDERING FIRE.

IMPERIAL VOLUNTEERS STRANDED IN LONDON.

Some thousands of men resident in the United States joined the British Imperial Volunteers in New York, in February of last year. Many of them were coloured men. During the five or six weeks of training in Canada, 2s. 6d. a day was deducted from the pay of the rank and file. It was stated that the accumulation of back pay would be given to them when they arrived in England, whereupon they were to have immediate leave. They only got the leave after trouble, and numbers of the men never got their back pay at all. Our informant, Pte. Ernest Smythe, elected to join the Suffolks, and a great many of the coloured men were transferred with him. Now Smythe and most of these other men have been demobilised, and immediately signed up Form 45A—thereby electing to go out of the Army after the expiration of 28 days' furlough. During that period they received ration money and pay. In very many cases the 28 days are up, but no steps have yet been taken to send the men back to America, and now they are stranded here in England without money, and, in the case of the coloured men, with no possibility of obtaining work. They are getting very restive. Some of them even talk of crime as a last desperate resource, and there are whispers of possible night excursions with sandbags. We don't wish to take these threats at their face value. But the grievance is a genuine one, and the bad feeling is there. It may easily be that the mob which was engaged in the Strand riot was partly composed of these men. What are the authorities going to do about it?

PILING ON THE AGONY.

SHAMEFUL CONDITIONS IN THE BANK OF ENGLAND.

What is the Bank of England up to? At the Moorgate Hall branch, Finsbury Pavement, between 500 and 600 girls have up till now been working in a confined space, with bad ventilation and with sanitary arrangements which are even worse. The Bank now finds it necessary to increase the staff, so it has devised a very pleasant plan of double shifts—as in a factory, though the modern factory is usually built on more hygienic lines. Instead of working from 9 a.m. till 4.45 p.m. on ordinary days and till 12.45 p.m. on Saturdays, one shift will work from 8 a.m. till 3 p.m. and the other from 3 p.m. till 10 p.m., and the shift which starts at 8 a.m. on Saturday will go on till 8 in the evening. On the old plan the girls worked 85 hours every fortnight; on the new plan they will work 82. Formerly they earned £2 per week, with a possibility of 15s. overtime. Now they will earn £2 5s. and no overtime. But these are not the vital differences. These are the things that count: (1) That this confined and ill-ventilated space will be used continuously from 8 in the morning until 10 at night. (2) It is not exactly pleasing to the parents to know that on one shift the girls must travel by early morning trains, and that on the other shift they must come home quite late at night. Altogether, the Bank of England management is muddling up the whole life of these girls, and risking serious damage to their health, for the sake of a few pounds or a little trouble saved. House room is difficult to get, but office-room not so difficult; and the Bank of England can command it.

A MUTUAL HOPE.

MR. WILSON: "I hope I don't intrude, Mr. Bull?"
MR. BULL: "I hope you *don't*, Mr. Wilson!"

AN ARROGANT CLAIM.

"THE POST OFFICE CAN DO NO WRONG."

More than a year ago a Postal Order for 16s., made payable to a Leytonstone reader, was lost in the post, and four months later—all efforts to trace the missing document having failed—a duplicate was issued, on the usual undertaking by the owner to indemnify the Post Office if the original were paid within six months. Nearly twelve months from the date of issue, the missing Order was cashed, although obviously out of time—a mishap that could never have occurred but for the negligence of the Post Office officials. With all the assurance in the world, the Solicitor's Department of the General Post Office started dunning the original owner for the money, under the indemnity he had given, threatening proceedings if it was not promptly paid. The facts having been brought to our notice, we ventured to drop a line to the Solicitor's Department, asking if on the document he had signed the owner was to be held liable "for all time, in spite of negligence on the part of the Post Office in not stopping the Order in question." The reply was a model of official impudence. "The Postmaster-General," we were informed, "could not admit that payment of the original Order was made as a result of any negligence on the part of the Post Office officials; but even if this were so, the Postmaster-General, as a representative of the Crown, was not bound by the default of his servants." Was there ever such a piece of evasion? It has come to something when the Royal Prerogative is stretched to cover the carelessness of a sleepy clerk! But that presumptuous pretence did not end the matter. Rabid for their pound of flesh, it was intimated that, if the amount were not paid during the week, the P.M.G. would be advised to commence at once legal proceedings against the victim. To us it seemed intolerably harsh, and we desired to save an innocent man from "the utmost rigour of the law." So we have paid that 16s. out of our own pocket to the Postmaster-General—and much good may it do him.

CRUELTY AND CASH.

CALVES' SCANDAL IN AN OPEN MARKET.

That the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals are getting to work on the calves scandal is evident from the prosecution of Reginald George Crane, a farmer of Matlock Moor, before the Bakewell Magistrates. In this instance, Crane had crowded two calves, "small and very weak," into a pen with other calves, which constantly knocked them down and trampled them. What mattered to this man the sufferings of these poor little creatures, "scarcely able to stand"? He was out for cash, not for conscience. Listen to this: "The Inspector: Did the auctioneer refuse to sell them, and tell you to take them home again and put them on the manure heap? Defendant: He put them out of the auction ring." Eventually they were killed and sold. And what do you think they fetched? A local butcher bought them for 1s. 4½d. each. The Inspector averred that calves had been sold for 1s. when he had refused to pass them. One of the Magistrates, Mr. Glossop, put it to Mr. A. J. Critchlow—Chairman of the Bakewell District Council and, mark you, Chairman of the Bakewell Grading Committee—who appeared in defence of the farmer, "Don't you think it is a scandalous shame to bring calves *two days old* into the market on a bitterly cold day? The whole procedure is disgraceful." "It is the general procedure all over the country," responded the ineffable Critchlow. So it is, but what an iniquity! And the reason for it is the instinct for greed and grab which this sort of farmer has developed as a war aim and a peace stunt. "The controlled price of veal is 1s. 5d. lb." explained the Inspector. "Rather than feed their calves, farmers sell milk for a high price." And Critchlow agreed with him. "To allow calves two days old to be treated in such a monstrous and barbarous manner is shocking," said the Chairman of Magistrates in inflicting a fine of £5 and costs on Crane. In our view, it is damnable.

DILATORY DEWSBURY.

FUND FOR A LOCAL V.C. HUNG UP.

Nearly two years ago a couple of soldiers, Private Waller and Sergeant Ormsby (both of the K.O.Y.L.I.) won the V.C. Waller was killed in action, but the Sergeant happily survived the war, having, in addition to the greater honour, won the Military Medal, and having refused the offer of a commission. After some delay, a public meeting was held in Dewsbury to inaugurate a fund, partly for the benefit of Ormsby, and partly for the purpose of endowing a children's cot in the local Infirmary in memory of Waller. It is now, we understand, a matter of eighteen months since over £1,100 was raised in Dewsbury for these purposes. The bulk of this sum is said to have been invested in Government Stock; but we think it is high time that Sergeant Ormsby, who is a married man with a family, had his share of it. By what right, may we ask, do the persons at present in possession of the fund, raised for a specific purpose, withhold it from the objects for which and whom it was intended? We advise one of the public-spirited subscribers to inquire into the matter.

"FIT FOR HEROES TO LIVE IN"?

THE "LUMP" FOR DISABLED SOLDIER'S CHILD.

It is one thing for miners to negotiate with employers on wages for work to be done, but what shall the disabled man do about his pension for the work he *has* done? Case after case comes before us of men who are in fact totally disabled, and have been fobbed off with some miserable gratuity. A discharged man, who had served four years at the Front, went home to Hull suffering from the effects of gas poisoning. He was awarded £60, and a temporary pension of £1 a week. His wife stuck to him "till all the money was spent," and then went off, taking with her a child who was in good health, and leaving with him a sick one. His temporary pension has now stopped, and he is far too ill to work. So his child has been admitted to the Union Infirmary for treatment. God knows what the man will do. The Board of Guardians were rightly indignant, and recommended the man to apply to the War Pensions Committee. We shall ourselves bring the matter up in the House, and see that justice is done.

HARD ON "OLD HARRY."

GRUDGING TREATMENT OF A VETERAN GUARD.

Everybody who travelled on the Cheshire Lines knew "Old Harry"—Harry Hassall, the tall, upstanding, elderly railway guard, who for years, until recently, conducted trains in and out of Manchester. Now he will be missed. With 42 years' service (34 years as a passenger guard) to his credit, he has been retired at the age of 71; and one would naturally suppose that after such a long and loyal connection with the Cheshire Lines Committee he would retire to comfort, if not to affluence. Not a bit of it. From the Pension Fund, into which he paid for years, he draws the princely sum of 2s. 7d. weekly, instead of the 9s. to which he would have been entitled had not some very convenient alteration been made in the Rules. True, he draws his Old Age Pension, and the Cheshire Lines Committee were considerate enough to pay his wages in full—up to the date of his retirement. But as for any tangible evidence of their appreciation of his long and faithful service, well—it is missing. It is hard cheese when a man in his seventies, after 42 years of conscientious labour, is dismissed to end his days on a weekly 2s. 7d. and the Old Age Pension, and if it does small credit to his late employers, it at least provides an argument for the nationalisation of the railways.

THE GREAT FISH RAMP.

THE SEAS ARE FULL, BUT OUR CUPBOARDS ARE EMPTY.

THE seas wash every inch of our island boundaries; they bring great stores of good wholesome food to our very gates, and with proper care and organisation there never should be a scarity of at least one article of diet here in England. The value of fish as a food has been greatly under-estimated—fish carries strength-giving properties for muscle, brain and nerve building second to no food known to man. There is an amazing amount of staying power in a fish diet. Possibly the hardest-worked animals on the whole globe are the sleigh-dogs of Alaska—they have to drag heavy loads through snow and ice, they sleep in the open in a frozen zone, with blizzards that beggar description often raging around them; yet they live entirely upon fish, and by fish their splendid courage, endurance and health are maintained. The amazing gold mines of the frozen Klondyke would never have been opened up without the sleigh-dogs, and experience proved that fish food was the only food that could keep these dogs up to working pitch. There are natives living in arctic regions who endure hardships which we are never called upon to face, and these men, women and children live on fish in some shape or form almost entirely. We hardly need to enlarge our outlook in regard to this food. We want our people as a whole to place more reliance in fish than they have ever done; there is no better food to meet the strain of modern demands on nerves.

Wasting Nature's Great Gifts.

Our seas swarm with natural phosphates, but the bountiful harvests which Nature sends close to our doors have been shamefully neglected in the past. The public of these isles have been defrauded to a great extent of one of the grandest blessings that Providence so lavishly supplies. Even in existing circumstances, the British fishing industry is a very big concern indeed; but, if properly handled, it could, and should, grow to gigantic proportions, and make us to a very large degree independent of much of the overseas food-supplying trade; for he who can get plenty of good, fresh British fish need not worry his head about frozen mutton or chilled beef. There is more stamina in fish, and it should not cost a tithe of the price of frozen meat. The public would take avidly to this natural diet if they could get it on reasonable terms; but they cannot. Even before the war, the trade was practically "cornered," and the fishing "rings" were on the ramp—and they are ramping now. Get-rich-quick-and-to-hell-with-the-public has been, is, and will be, the motto of the fishing "rings."

Break the "Ring"!

We must break them down and get the limitless harvests from the waters, and place those harvests in the hands of our people at prices satisfactory to all. We need a fish market in every city in the kingdom, in every town of any size—a public market, not necessarily as great as Billingsgate or the market at Aberdeen, but a place of sufficient importance to attract the housewives as well as the shopkeepers; and we need special fish trains to supply those markets direct from the various sea coasts. At present the rail service for fish is a pitiable patchwork concern, utterly inadequate and totally unworthy of a great business people. Give us the new markets and the proper train service, and the health and the pockets of the public will rapidly benefit. The seas are public property, but a certain small section of individuals who have invested a little cash in the fishing industry seem to consider they have acquired a monopoly by some inscrutable means, and have a right to exploit the public. They have no such right, and they must rapidly be made to know it. They have no right to take a portion of their catch out to sea again and dump it overboard rather than bring down prices; yet they do it. This should be made a criminal offence, for the fish that are dumped into the sea are dead—they cannot go on spawning their kind for the good of humanity; so that the men who "dump" their catches not only rob the public of the benefits of the "catch," but rob them of all the millions of fish which would have been produced if they had been left in the sea. We badly need at every landing wharf an officer of the law, armed with authority to compel fishermen, great and small, to put what they take from the sea upon the market. It is every man's right to take from the sea; it is no man's right to waste what he takes in order to blackmail the public. The whole industry badly needs overhauling. There is a vast difference between the initial cost of securing fish and the price the people have to pay for it. In all industries a fair profit for labour and experience and capital embarked is permissible and right; that is the backbone of all endeavour—no one does anything for nothing. But there is no question of fair profit here; the public have been bled white, and the time has come to call a halt. It is highway robbery within the law, and the law must be altered so that the scandal may be brought to an end.

Fairplay All Round.

They who follow the fishing industry must in future be content with reasonable profits. So also must the shareholders in the big trawling companies who own fleets of steamers and sailing craft. This damnable plundering of the British people must and shall come to an end. We are not going to sit still and see one of our greatest and best sources of food kept as a mere wealth-producing preserve for a few greedy, grasping, bloodless folk who do not care a damn whether people starve or not, as long as their purses are filled quickly!

IN THE HOUSE.

THE EDITOR'S WEEK'S WORK IN PARLIAMENT.

ONE of the principal matters to which I directed attention during the past week was that of the construction of the Channel Tunnel. I pointed out that, if an agreement could at once be arrived at with the French Government to make a start with the project, work could be found for thousands of demobilised men—although this practical consideration is quite distinct from the sentimental aspect of the matter. Elsewhere I have suggested that the building of this Peace Tunnel would constitute a fitting memorial of the war, and, by the time these lines are read, we shall doubtless have had a further announcement by the Government on the subject. In any case I intend to follow the matter up, as I am sure public opinion is now quite ripe for the scheme.

I have also been busy plying Ministers with a variety of questions relating to matters brought to the attention of our Parliamentary Bureau, and have elicited a large amount of valuable information. Indeed, it is remarkable what special attention members of the Government give to my questions. They evidently realise the public force which is behind them.

I hope that by the time this issue is published, Mr. Churchill will have announced the composition and terms of reference of the Committee which I have secured to inquire into the whole system of Courts-Martial in the Army. I look for important results from the work of this Committee.

Another matter to which I called attention was the need for completing arrangements for the distribution of food throughout the country in the event of the threatened Miners, Railway and Transport Workers strike taking place. I was glad to receive the assurance that this vital matter is not being overlooked if emergency arises.

Hundreds of letters are received in the Parliamentary Bureau every day, covering a wide range of grievances; and each is dealt with individually, often by bringing the matter direct to the notice of the Minister with whose Department of State the remedy rests.

The great majority of complaints concern Demobilisation delays, more especially in the case of men who have served continuously since the early days of the war, many of them in ill health and others elderly or "one-man-business" men who are still retained on duty in Salonika, Mesopotamia, Egypt, India or in Siberia. Other cases that are being brought to the notice of the Admiralty are of men of the Mercantile Marine drafted into the Navy, and fishermen still engaged in minesweeping, who are now urgently needed for and anxious to resume their former work.

Civilian grievances, affecting large and poor classes of the community, are the present inadequacy of Old Age, Police, and Teachers' Pensions; the necessity of the reform of the Marriage and Divorce laws; of the better inspection of public and private asylums and institutions; the provision of Remand Homes, which would render impossible the repetition of such tragedies as that of Ellen Sullivan; and the appointment of a Public Defender. I am watching and moving in all these matters.

One of the subjects to which I am directing attention is the publication of the Report of the proceedings at the Inquiry into the loss of the *Hampshire*. I am certain the Government would be wise to lift the veil of mystery which at present shrouds the fate of Lord Kitchener, and thus dispose of the many wild rumours which are still flying about the country. I am not referring so much to the belief held by many people—including his own sister, Mrs. Parker—that the great War Lord is still alive, as to the widely entertained suspicion that he was the victim of a Hun conspiracy, due to the disclosure by the Czarina of his projected journey to Petrograd.

I had hoped during the debate on the Vote on account for the Navy to raise the subject of the scandalous secret Court of Inquiry to which we recently drew attention in these columns and which reversed the finding of a court-martial on H.M.S. *Agamemnon*, and resulted in the ruin of a gallant young officer of the R.N.V.R. The discussion, however, was practically confined to Service men with a variety of domestic grievances, but I shall hope for an opportunity when the detailed Estimates are before the House, to raise the subject. Personally, I am of opinion that it would be a good thing if the inquiry into courts-martial in the Army could be extended to courts-martial and courts of inquiry in the Navy, so that the rights of the members of both Services could be examined and safeguarded at the same time.

There is no doubt that not a little of the feeling of discontent in the Army has arisen from a sense of injustice in the administration of the law, and the same remark applies to the Navy. It is contrary to our sense of "fair play" that any man or officer should be condemned without an open trial. Secrecy is foreign to us, and where there is publicity injustice, if not impossible, is preventable. It is no answer to anyone that, the war having ended, these matters can be allowed to drop. It is never too late to mend a wrong.

All communications concerning public questions or private grievances should be plainly marked "Parliamentary Bureau," and addressed to "Mr. Horatio Bottomley, M.P., John Bull, 93, Long Acre, W.C.2."

ANOTHER POLICEMAN'S PENSION.

HARD LINES FOR AN INJURED AND DISABLED MAN.

The story of another policeman's pension is one of rank hard lines. He was injured internally while on duty, and, having been 23½ years in the force, was ordered to retire disabled on a pension of 24s. a week for six months. Then, after another medical examination, he was certified as partially disabled and his pension reduced to £1 0s. 8d. a week—on which to maintain self, wife, and family. This poor chap missed the new scale of pensions by only 4 months. He has begged to be taken back to complete 26 years' service, when there would be over £90 a year for him and a pension for his wife after his death. But they tell him his injuries unfit him for duty, and yet at the same time label him as only partially unfit! His case certainly seems to call for more sensible consideration.

TOO LATE TO MEND?

SERIOUS PROBLEM FOR SEPTUAGENARIAN SINNER.

The other day there called an old fellow who, with some pride, described himself as "a really remarkable man." Our brief interview inclined us to think that his claim was justified. Thirty-five years he had spent in prison, mostly in short terms, the longer being for "things he hadn't done"—that is to say, on more than one occasion he had been sentenced under the Prevention of Crimes Act as a suspected person. An exponent of the "confidence trick," he has operated on every racecourse in the British Isles. He even "practised" on the Continent, his clientèle consisting chiefly of winners in the various State Lotteries. But the old man has a grievance—in fact he has two. Although at liberty, he is unable to ply the handicraft to which he was regularly apprenticed—he is a tinsmith—because he cannot get a job without some "interfering 'tec" giving away his past. Neither can he get his Old Age Pension until two years have elapsed since his discharge from prison—he has only just been released after serving another sentence under the Prevention of Crimes Act. So he must either go to a workhouse or lounge about and perhaps be arrested again as a suspected person. It seems a pity that a highly organised community cannot devise some scheme or other for dealing with cases such as this.

SOULLESS RED-TAPE.

BEREAVED PARENT'S PILGRIMAGE FORBIDDEN.

A subaltern, the son of a retired Army officer, was killed last October in France. His body was not found until the next day, when an Australian soldier came upon it, and wrote the father stating that the remains had been buried. Strange to say, as recently as the early part of last December the Director of Graves Registration wrote regretting that the grave had not yet been located; some weeks ago, however, the Australian soldier, then stationed on the Franco-Belgian frontier, wrote offering to accompany the parent to the spot. The Chief Military Permit Office was immediately approached for permission to cross to France at once, as the Australian soldier was daily expecting to be sent home. Thirteen days later Lieut-Colonel C. Eliot, Chief Permit Officer, sent an official letter regretting "to inform you that in view of the severe restrictions at present governing cross-channel and Continental traffic, it is not possible to accede to your request. Whilst assuring you of every sympathy, I beg that you will be good enough to accept this decision as final." In view of the numbers of persons of no particular importance who are daily crossing to France on errands that can scarcely matter, we call this a red-tape refusal, and Colonel Eliot's assurance of sympathy affords but cold comfort.

Influenza

"No," said Uncle Cheerilboy, "I have not had the 'Flu and I don't expect to have it. Keep smiling, **keep fit,** *take plenty of exercise and Page Woodcock's Pills, that's my antidote."*

Page Woodcock's Pills regulate the functions of the body and help to throw off all the impurities upon which the disease germs feed and thrive. This fine old remedy has kept millions of men and women fit and well for the past seventy years. It is **nature's** corrective, providing in a purely vegetable form a safe and certain remedy for **constipation, impure blood, sluggish liver, kidney disorders** and all irregularities of the stomach and bowels. Start taking Page Woodcock's Pills **at once,** and they will put you right and prevent complications.

They make and keep you fit!
70 years' reputation.
Sold by all Chemists.
Have cured millions. Will cure you.

Page Woodcock's Pills

1/9 and 4/6

IN THE BARBER'S CHAIR.

MISS V. DOUGLAS PENNANT.

Come right in, ma'am. Don't be shy. It's quite all right. Wot kin I 'ave the pleasure? . . . Trim yore ends? Cert'n'y. Pass up the stairs. . . . Any idea wot's goin' to win the Grand Nation——? Er—excuse me. I forgot for the moment that you was a lady. Racing amuses us men; but all the same we can't 'elp reckernisin' the fack that very few wimmin is really sportin'. I rawther fancy that's the trouble with that Miss Douglas Pennant wot they was debatin' about so furious in the 'Ouse o' Commons the other day. . . . I beg your pardon, ma'am, did I 'urt you? . . . *On'y yore feelin's?* . . . Oh, I see! You *are* Miss Pennant! Of corse it upset you to be dismissed from yore job as Chief of the Women's Royal Air Force, and I dessay you feel a bit sore with Lord Weir. But the 'ansome tributes wot was paid to you in the 'Ouse ought to go a long way towards healing yore injured feelin's, so fer speak. General Seely sed, plain enough, there was no charge against you, and that you was one o' the most competent and efficient ladies in England and Wales, but that Lord Weir decided that you was not fitted to be head of the W.R.A.F.s, and so 'e on'y done 'is duty in supersedin' you. It cert'ny seems that you was given the bullet a bit abrupt, like; but it don't do to be too thin skinned in public affairs. Seely sed, straight out and fair, you could 'ave gone back to your old job on the Welsh Insurance Commission; but, if you'll excuse me fur sayin' so, miss, you appear to 'ave took it into yore 'ead as you'd got a grievance; and w'en once some people git that kinder idea into their 'ead, nine times outer ten they make matters worse for theirselves. . . . Yes, yes, miss, I know. But we was at wore at the time. You occupied the position of a military officer. Your duty was to obey the orders of yor chief. You was superseded, that's all. You wasn't broke with ignominy, as they say. You read wot General Seely sed about 'undreds of Generals 'avin' bin dismissed in France durin' the wore, without any reason bein' given. You wasn't shot at dawn, or anythink like that. You was simply relieved of yore job and could 'ave gone back to yore old one if you'd liked. . . . *Unsympathetic?* P'raps I am. It's becos I've 'ad so many *genuine*, 'eart-breakin' grievances of pore 'elpless Tommies brought to my notice that I can't see as yore case was really important enough to take up so much of the time of the 'Ouse. . . . Good-day, miss; good-day. Sorry I can't cry; but I've gotter be honest with meself. . . .

RHYMES OF THE TIMES.

Old King Coal.

Old King Coal is a merry old soul,
And a merry old soul is he;
But he's merry, when you work hours,
At the cost of you and me!
In days of old he used to call
His fiddlers, to play;
But nowadays he calls a tune
For which we have to pay!

But Old King Coal's tyrannic reign
Cannot for ever last;
Through Sankey he'll grow moody,
And through Money be downcast!
Exposure of his secret gains
Are making him feel silly;
And when he abdicates his throne
'Twill largely be through Smillie!

"The Hidden Hand" Film can be seen this week at Warrington, Picture House; Warrington, Queen's Cinema; Blackheath, The Pavilion; Burton-on-Trent, Picturedrome; Annbank, League Hall; and next week at Leiston, Picture House; Gosport, Olympia; Chorley, Pavilion Cinema; Holyhead, The Hippodrome; Burntisland, The Cinema; Glasgow, Wellington Picture Palace.

BAD NEWS

No Indemnities?—Significant Signs at Home—Bye-

By THE

MR. WILSON is now back at the Conference, and the conventional Press is once more busy recording the wonderful progress being made by the delegates with a view to the early signing of the Peace Treaty. In a few days' time, we are told, the German representatives are to have communicated to them the terms of the Allies—which of course they will be bound to accept, however much they may endeavour to save their faces by a protest. And then, I suppose, we shall have the triumphant return of the Prime Minister with the Preliminary Peace Treaty in his pocket—although why we should have a preliminary one at all passes my understanding. In the meantime, however, there are sinister rumours coming over from Paris. It is true we are told that an international tribunal is to be set up for the trial of the ex-Kaiser and his confederates—yet at the same time there are vague hints that the sovereign of a State is immune from prosecution; and, personally, I should not be greatly surprised if, when the tribunal is constituted and meets to formulate its procedure, many weeks are spent in learned wrangling on this point. In other words, I do not believe that in the end the Kaiser will be held personally responsible for the crimes and infamies of the war; or, if he be, then I fancy such responsibility will be declared of so purely technical a character as to secure his escape from the condign retribution which is his due. However, we have not got the Court yet, and by the time it is ready to start business I am afraid that many of the culprits will be in their graves.

Prime Minister and Indemnities.

It is not, however, the punishment of the Kaiser, or even the ultimate destiny of the German Colonies, that I am at the moment concerned with. What I have in my mind is information, which comes to me from well-informed sources, that all the grandiloquent talk of the General Election about "making Germany pay" is to end in smoke. I have the best of reasons for believing that in no real sense of the term will Britain insist upon Indemnities. I do not imagine that Germany will even be asked to pay "to the uttermost extent of her capacity"—meaningless and tricky as such a phrase is. The truth is that, on the one hand, America has solid material reasons for not wishing to see Germany broken to pieces; whilst, on the other, the bankers and international financiers have so much at stake that they are frightening the Prime Minister almost out of his life with lurid pictures of the disaster which would follow the policy of making the enemy pay the cost of the war. I do not forget that President Wilson's Fourteen Points have always been silent on this subject, and that it was not until—voicing the view of the British public—I insisted in these columns upon the policy of making the loser pay that Mr. Lloyd George adopted it—reluctantly and at the last moment—as an electioneering cry. Let us see once more what it was we compelled Mr. Lloyd George to agree to. It was at Bristol, on 12th December—on the eve of the polls—that he really came out of his shell. "Who is to foot the bill?" he asked. And then he proceeded to tell us that "by the jurisprudence of every civilised country in the world, in any law-suit the loser pays. It is not a question of vengeance; it is a question of justice. It means that the Judge and the Court have decided that one party is in the wrong. He has challenged judgment. By the law of every civilised country in the world, the party who is guilty of the wrong pays the costs. There is absolutely no doubt about the principle." Now that is a very clear and an unqualified declaration. Mr. Lloyd George, however, was not content with it, for he went on to say: "There is another reason why Germany should pay the bill, apart from the general principles of equity. The war has cost her less than it has cost us. We have had to maintain and build up a great army for it. We have had to maintain a gigantic navy. We have had practically to police the seas of the world. . . . It is absolutely indefensible that a person who is in the wrong, and has lost, should pay less than the person who is declared to be in the right, and who has won." But here the Prime Minister commenced to trim. Putting the cost of the war to Britain at 8,000 millions and to Germany at 7,000 millions, he said: "There is no doubt that that extra thousand millions, for a population of forty-five millions, whereas their population is seventy millions—*to that extent* would handicap us in competition for the future." Do you notice the cunning reservation in those words? In any case, says Mr. Lloyd George in effect; we must see that Germany, with her seventy millions of people, does not get off a thousand millions lighter than Britain, with its forty-five millions. And having thus paved the way, he then proceeded with his theory that "Germany should pay to the uttermost extent of her capacity." He told us that he had consulted his financial advisers, and that they were doubtful of her ability to foot the bill. They had actually stuffed him up with the nonsense that "before the war the wealth of Germany was between fifteen thousand and twenty thousand millions"—in other words, some four thousand millions less than the total estimated cost of the war to the whole of the Allies—which he put at twenty-four thousand millions. Then the audience began to kick. The speech was not going well, and awkward interruptions came from all parts of the hall. But the wily little Welshman was ready for them. "Stop a minute," said he, "I have not finished the story yet." And then he went on to tell them that the Government had appointed a very strong Committee "to investigate further the capacity of Germany and the whole question." He also said it was proposed to recommend the Allies to appoint an inter-Allied Commission—the body which, I gather, is still sitting—but already he had received a report from the British Committee, "and," said he, "you will be glad to hear that they take a more favourable view of the capacity of Germany than do the official Government Departments. They think that the assets of Germany, the wealth of Germany, have been underestimated in the past—that she is wealthier, that she has a greater capacity, than we have given her credit for." And "if that is so," he declared, "you will find that her capacity will go a pretty long way."

Members' Pledges.

That is how the matter stood, so far as the Premier's speeches were concerned. But Sir Eric Geddes, then First Lord of the Admiralty, and other Ministers, did not beat about the bush. They were confident not only that Germany could pay, but they pledged the Government to see that she did. And after that came those Election manifestos and posters, "Vote for the Man who Won the War, and Make Germany Pay." I omit the rest as not being germane to my purpose. Can it be wondered that nearly every candidate for Parliament took up this cry of Indemnities, and is pledged to the teeth to see it justified? I don't think there are many Members in the House who are desirous of repudiating it. As Mr. Austin Harrison said in the *English Review* the other day, "At home we have a Parliament which is out of touch with the spirit of the country, which remains silent when the Prime Minister refers to the League of Nations, but cheers vociferously when Mr. Bottomley calls for a ten thousand million Indemnity." And I shall certainly continue to call for it, and I believe those Members will still cheer. At any rate, the Government will have a bad time if it tables a Treaty which does not make adequate provision for the redemption of those Election pledges. Already the bye-elections are giving indication of public restlessness, and I am bound to warn the Prime Minister that there is serious trouble ahead if the nation is sold upon this vital matter.

Significant Signs.

Would my friend the Prime Minister think me guilty of exaggeration if I declared that the Government lost West Leyton because the electors are becoming impatient of delay over both Peace and Reconstruction, and of the various promises which gained for him such a big majority at the General Election? I recall his recent speech in which he said that he knew nothing of military, but something of political, tactics and strategy. Let me tell him that it is bad "tactics" to make promises too rashly. Sir F. E. Smith's surrender of the post of Attorney-General and a splendid practice at the Bar for a doubtful tenure as Lord Chancellor meant a bye-election in the West Derby Division of Liverpool. There is no one quite

FROM PARIS.

lections and Public Opinion—The Duty of Members.

ITOR.

like "F. E.," and West Derby was very proud of him. Hence it might have been expected that his successor would not be so welcome. But if any man could win the suffrages of the Liverpool electors it should have been one who "went down to the sea in ships"—in other words, a Naval officer. And when that officer was Admiral Hall, the man of silence and secrecy who beat the Germans at their own game, he might have been expected to poll something very near "F. E's." figures—assuming, that is, that the electors were just as enamoured of the Lloyd George Ministry as they were last December. And yet the result showed that something like 5,000 Liverpudlians were either doubtful or apathetic—doubtful of the sincerity of the Government or indifferent as to its fate. I am not going to say that there was anything of the "writing on the wall" order about this particular contest. But I do say it was significant. West Leyton following so soon after is a different proposition altogether.

Test of Public Opinion.

Of course bye-elections are often misleading, but at the same time they are some test of public opinion—that is why I opposed the Bill which did away with the re-election of Ministers on taking office, and I am glad to say I succeeded in limiting its operation. Let us look at these West Leyton figures. In December the seat was won by a Coalition candidate, with a majority of 5,668. Now the very man, Mr. Newbould, who was then defeated, wins it from the Government nominee by a majority of over 2,000. A quick change indeed! What does it mean? It means that the country has looked to the Prime Minister to "deliver the goods" and does not think it is getting them. It is true that the "ticket-man" was not a particularly attractive candidate—personally I have nothing to say against him, but there is no disguising the fact that he was not exactly what you would call a Democrat. His Parliamentary record, when he sat for Windsor, was, to say the least of it, an undistinguished one. He was anything but enthusiastic about Old Age Pensions; he was an opponent of the Act which provided meals for hungry school children; he voted against the Miners' Eight Hours' Bill and against the Bill which set up a Minimum Wage; he was against Land Reform, and incidentally, he went into the lobby to defeat Home Rule. All these things may have counted against him, and it is only fair to the Government to remember them.

Scandal of the Liquor Control.

But what, on the other hand, did his opponent, the successful candidate, stand for? Well, at least he is against the continuance of the horde of Controllers who, though they may have been "a war necessity," are an after-war pest. I am not certain that his opposition extended to the Liquor Control, but I know this: that the country is dead against a continuance of the D'Abernon régime. We were told that the working man could not have the beer he wanted and deserved because the grain was needed for food. Now Mr. Roberts, the Food Controller, frankly informs us that there is enough food in the world for everyone—so much of it, in fact, that we can spare millions of tons of wheat to feed the hungry Germans. And yet the Liquor Control Board keeps its grip upon the nation, and we are asked to be devoutly thankful for the ridiculous concession by which the public houses of the country are opened for half an hour earlier in the evening! Could anything be more preposterous? The man who attends a football match on a Saturday afternoon, or commits the unpardonable sin of going to any other outdoor sport, is not allowed half a pint of refreshment. Can you wonder there is grumbling and discontent? But let us face facts. Liverpool's result meant apathy; West Leyton had a double significance. It was a protest against the Government's failure to "deliver the goods" promised in December, and it was a very definite rebuff to Mr. Lloyd George and his "coupon" majority. We fought to prevent dictatorship in Europe; we don't intend to tolerate it at home. In the fever of the General Election the country lost its head; any man, whatever his political record, who was "tipped" by the Prime Minister won in a canter. More sober counsels now prevail, and no constituency is prepared to send a man to Parliament merely because Mr. Lloyd George pretends he wants him there. He is a "great little man" and he has done wonders, but that blank cheque he asked for has not yet been filled up as the nation desires. I predict that within a short time, unless the Government justify the confidence of the country, there will be a dramatic "*volte face*" in the constituences, and there is I repeat no single question that arouses firmer determination than that of "Full Indemnities."

The Duty of Members.

But while I say quite frankly that I am glad to see an Independent-Liberal defeat a "ticket" Unionist, I should be more pleased at Mr. Newbould's return to Parliament if I was certain that he would join that little band of Members who are out to get things done. My first impressions of the new House of Commons were decidedly favourable. I saw a host of new men, fresh to public life, and I had hopes that they would show their energy and independence, not only on questions of policy, but in matters of detail. And the most important of all details are concerned with finance. Yet when the Estimates were presented last week and the week before, you might have thought that Inman and Stevenson were playing billiards in the Commons Library—so rapid was the exit from the House. Now I tell my new friends this will not do. They were sent to Parliament to do the work of Parliament; £400 a year may not be a particularly handsome salary, but there it is, and they were returned to the House of Commons to do the country's business. No one who understands the cost of our unpreparedness when Armageddon broke out would deny to the Navy, the Army, and the Air Force the funds necessary to maintain our strength and our authority. But if there is any meaning in the Peace Conference, the war is over, Germany is at last beaten "to a frazzle," as the Americans say, and if ever there was a time when retrenchment could be safely secured, now is the time—always of course assuming that America comes into line. Yet we are faced with swollen millions in the Estimates, and the Chancellor of the Exchequer is confronted with problems of taxation to meet expenditure which put all pre-war finance into the shade. We are watching the proceedings of the Commission which is trying to find out whether the coal miners can enjoy bigger wages and shorter hours without damage and loss to the community as a whole. But if these mountainous totals are not reduced—£63,000,000 for the Air Ministry alone!—there will be nothing for it but ruinous taxation and, if not national bankruptcy, national impoverishment. It is the duty of those who have been sent to Westminster to keep a keen and close eye also upon expenditure for what is called Reconstruction. We can only make this land of ours "a country fit for heroes to live in" if we stop all the wicked waste and extravagance which load the back of the taxpayer with a burden that would send Ali Baba's donkey trembling to its knees.

The Burden of Taxation.

Don't think it is only the poor Income Tax payer who has to foot the bill—he is, I know, already ground down beyond all reason. But every man, woman and child is affected by the weight of national expenditure. Everything we need is made dearer by State extravagance. Food, clothing, drink, housing, railway fares—even our amusements, like the theatre and the cinema—are dearer when Government departments spend money wastefully. And Heaven knows the waste is still appalling! If the House of Commons is to be something more than a gathering of amiable gentlemen who think they have been sent there simply as a personal compliment, it will set to work without further delay to cut down the Estimates, to reduce unnecessary expenditure. I am no advocate of a cheese-paring policy—what is necessary must be voted—but I see on all sides gross and wicked extravagance, and I call upon my colleagues in the House of Commons to apply to the finances of the nation just the same common-sense as they have exercised to such good purpose in their own personal affairs. In other words, let us have a Business Parliament.

THE PEOPLE'S PULPIT.

The readers of "JOHN BULL" discuss matters of Public Interest.

In giving publicity to the views of correspondents, preference will be accorded to brief letters bearing name and address for publication.

All envelopes must be marked "People's Pulpit."

These letters, selected from our weekly mail, are confined to questions of general interest.

More personal matters are dealt with in our "Letter Bag" page.

That "Bad" Language.

Why is German taught in schools in England? All our sacrifices will be of no avail unless Germany is absolutely crushed, and to crush her we must altogether refuse to trade with her and must ignore her and her methods.—C. A. L. Stevens, Cotham Brow, Bristol.

(It should certainly be an order of the Education Department that the teaching of German should be forbidden in our Elementary Schools; whilst the only German History should be that of how they behaved during the war!—Ed.)

Plundering the Public.

A visit to a Labour Exchange would be an education to some of our Ministers. At one of these places in the East-end of London this week, a crowd of the "out of works" were waiting their turn, and were openly boasting that they were not going to take any job, and were going to "see it out." One of them was telling the others not to go to a certain lady official, as she was "the one who found you the jobs." It's about time this scandalous business was stopped.—Geo. Coates, Essex Road, Barking.

(It would certainly be a good idea for the Government to have representatives at the various Labour Exchanges, with a view to spotting the "won't-workers."—Ed.)

Encouraging Inventors.

Inventors in other countries get their fees paid, and the expense of models, "to help beat the British." And that is how we have been beaten in the past, and will be beaten in the future. In whatever branch he makes suggestions, the inventor meets with the same rebuff: "We are satisfied with our present system." So he gives up in despair, whereas if he had been given the slightest help or encouragement, he might to-day be investing his thousands in "Peace Loans." W. Stewart Royston, Sunnyside, near Warrington.

(In connection with the national scheme of Reconstruction, we must have a Ministry of Inventions, with power to subsidise poor inventors.—Ed.)

Britishers or Huns?

In view of the fact that there is considerable unemployment in the country, I have every sympathy with the protest made at Newport Trades Council against the employment of German prisoners in building operations at Chepstow. I am certainly not in favour of German prisoners being allowed to eat the bread of idleness, but I am just as certainly not in favour of these Germans being put on work which ought to be given to British now out of employment. Better that the German should remain idle than a war worn British workman should be allowed to starve.—(Mrs.) Sarah Parr, Adelaide Street, near Wigan.

(Quite right. We are working with other M.P.s to get this scandal rectified.—Ed.)

Five Guineas will be paid each week to the writer of what we consider to be the most interesting letter. That amount has been sent to Mr. Bryant, the writer of the starred letter.

"Tommy" and "Sammy."

I must agree with President Wilson when he says that "Tommy" lifted his head and eyes when he knew American soldiers were on their way across. But why? Simply because "Tommy" thought he had had a pretty good share, so he lifted his head and said, "It's d——d near time, too." I don't know whether Wilson intended to set his "Sammies" on a higher pedestal than "Tommy" when he said, "They were not like any of the other soldiers," but he should remember that "Tommy" was fighting a stiff and bitter fight for the protection of the world in general years before Wilson seemed to know there was a war on, and we in England won't get the "wind up" even if "Tommy" is not like "Sammy."—B. A. Bryant (late Royal Garrison Artillery), Randolph Street, Camden Town.

(Well spoken! We think, by this time, Mr. Wilson must regret having made that Boston speech.—Ed.)

"Jolly Good Ale and Strong."

Some years ago Mr. H. Belloc introduced into Parliament a "Pure Beer Bill," which was rejected. Now we are all discussing reconstruction, such a measure would be greatly beneficial. It was good English ale that has built our nation, and if we are going to start again we may as well have a good foundation. Give all the workers good beer and they won't strike.—A. Taylor, Roberts Street, Patricroft.

(Hear, hear! Britain was built up on good ale. Swipes would ruin any nation.—Ed.)

Children and the Stage.

Why can't something be done by the way of financial assistance for poor working men with large families? Giving prizes for baby shows only benefits a lucky few. The nation wants healthy children, then let the nation help to rear them by giving help, "not with the stigma of pauperism," until they reach the age of 16. We want a scheme whereby the State will lend a hand in making them into strong and healthy citizens.—R. Kelly, Harford Street, Stepney.

(We have already suggested the endowment of parenthood—which means a State subsidy for every child.—Ed.)

Value of Wages.

In Henry the Eighth's time skilled workmen's wages were a shilling a day. When they received any increase it was taken from them by traders and landlords raising prices and rent. This game has gone on until now: we have still the same old trouble to make "ends meet." Wages are of no consequence while prices and rent are raised.—Alex. Hatton, Riverview Street, Belfast.

(Our correspondent is quite right. High wages in themselves are of no advantage unless prices can be kept down. We must get that £10,000,000,000 from Germany.—Ed.)

"Ninepence for Fourpence."

Not a line have I seen on behalf of permanently disabled workers, who now, when *quite incapacitated*, receive a dole of 5s. per week; no increase during the strenuous time of war, with the sovereign at only 9s. value. In peace time this sum was only sufficient for bare existence, leaving out rent and clothing, now it is an absolute starvation dole, driving its members to the workhouse or "charity."—F. Middleton, Lee Terrace, Deptford.

(Most certainly the scale of compensation should be reviewed. In our gratitude to the soldier, we must not forget the civilian.—Ed.)

"The Sin of the Slums."

The housing of millions of Englishers is a brutal injustice, a standing health menace, and an incentive to Bolshevism. A few weeks ago I buried a poor parishioner whose one-roomed home had no fireplace, rotten window sashes, and from the bulging ceiling (until the bed was moved into another corner) the rainwater dropped on her face! Sin of the slums? *How* the tenants are sinned against! Hammer away at it. You'll earn the gratitude of millions.—(Rev.) Hugh Powell, Ware Parish Church, Herts.

(We are keeping our eye on the Housing Bill now before Parliament, and certainly the abolition of slumland will have to be one of the first cares of the Government.—Ed.)

School Uniforms.

We working-class mothers find it very hard to get clothes and boots for those of our children who attend the Elementary Schools. They last no time. It would be a good idea if a suitable uniform could be provided for school-children. Parents would gladly pay a weekly sum towards it, and a great anxiety would be removed from the already over-burdened shoulders of working mothers.—Rose Jenkins, Cyntwell, near Cardiff.

(Whilst fully sympathising with our correspondent, we are afraid that the spirit of the English people is rather opposed to civilian uniforms wherever they can be avoided. At the same time, the scandal in question is a very real one.—Ed.)

"THE GREATEST OF THESE—"

(Registered under the Act of 1916 as "The John Bull War Sufferers' Fund.")

This fund affords immediate relief to the dependents of soldiers and sailors stranded for want of money. Every farthing subscribed goes to some deserving person—we gladly defray all expenses.

Among the numerous cases we assisted during the week were the following:—

Amazing Fortitude:—A pathetic letter reached us from a poor old woman of 86. She is, of course, past earning a living, and is in receipt of only the old age pension. During the winter she has felt the pinch of cold and hunger time and again without murmuring, but her health is now failing, and she was grateful for our help.

Penniless and Fireless:—A soldier's widow, who has been struggling against adverse circumstances, has had a nervous breakdown, and during her illness was without fire or sufficient food. Her only boy—a wage earner—has also been seriously ill, and to pay for medical attendance she had to pledge his clothing. He has now recovered, and we enabled her to redeem the things and thus enabled him to return to work and comparative affluence.

A Weary Waiting:—A soldier is home on special leave to see his sick children. He has been waiting for weeks for his pay to come through, and had no means with which to pay doctor's bill, rent, or other necessary expenses. He recently lost a child by death, and is anxious to prevent disaster to the remaining little ones. His wife also is ill, and unable to assist him by earning a few shillings.

The Boot Problem:—Day by day we receive letters asking for means to provide boots for the children of our soldiers. As a typical case we mention that of a father, an old soldier, who suffers periodically from rheumatism, and has to lose time from work. There are five children—and, the youngest being only a baby, the mother cannot go to work.

Cannot Make Headway:—A widower is left with a family of young children, his wife having died as the result of shock from air raids. The cost of the care of the youngsters is more than he can meet, and he is faced with many debts, including arrears of rent. One of the children has been under the doctor, and another is always delicate.

Further Cases:—

Sailor's wife has to take her child to hospital, a long distance from home; loses time from work, and cannot afford to pay fare.

Old soldier wanted cost of licence for hawking. Lost three sons in the war.

Discharged soldier required pair of boots for special night work; sufferer from chronic rheumatism.

Two children have been ill for seven weeks; long doctor's bill awaiting settlement.

Delicate wife of discharged soldier without coals. Husband cannot put in a full week's work owing to impaired health.

SUBSCRIPTIONS.

WHAT HAVE YOU GIVEN?

During the week our little fund benefited by a cheque for £320 13s. 2d., willed to it by Mr. Frederick Burkhardt, an old friend of John Bull, who recently died in the Persian Gulf. Mr. Burkhardt always took a great interest in this charitable work, and the handsome bequest was doubly welcome as it came at a time when very heavy demands are being made upon us in consequence of the influenza epidemic, and—probably in the erroneous belief that the contrary is the case—there is unfortunately a tendency for ordinary subscriptions to fall off. We also have pleasure in acknowledging the following donations:—A. McK. C. (Westmeath), 10s.; "Huguenot," 10s.; W. N. S., 2s. 6d.; A. C. (Devonport), 1s.; C. E. B. (Cairo), 2s.; M. D. (Kington), 2s. 6d.; C. B. (Alberta), 9s. 8d.; W. P. (Buckhaven), 2s.; Mrs. A. L. (Durham), 2s.; Proceeds of Cinematograph Entertainment at Amoy, China (per R. L. B.), £15 16s. 3d.; W. L. (Dumbartonshire), 5s.; "Corporal," 2s.; E. M. S. (Harlow), 1s.; A. G. H. (Smethwick), 1s.; "Until," 2s. 6d.; "Taxi Driver 5278," 1s.; S. H. (Warrington), 1s.; P. H. (B.E.F.), 1s. 2d.; H. T. (Kingsbridge), 2s.; Mrs. F. S. R. (Pretoria), 5s.; "In Ever Loving Memory of Sweet Little Muriel," 5s.; "A Scot," 10s.; P. M. B. S. (Natal), 10s.; Mrs. L. F. R. (Worthing), 10s.; Mrs. L. C. C., 1s.; T. H. (Derby), 5s.; Dr. W. S., 5 francs; "Well-wisher," 5s.; A. L. M. (Sydney), £1; G. A. L., Mount Ngwibi (16th contribution), £3; C. T. D. (Leyton), parcel; "A Nurse," 2s.; "Sportsman," 1s.; H. B. (Southport), 2s.; Mrs. E. A. B. (Cutford), 1s.; "Not Gulled by Wilson's Bluff," 10s.; "Nurse C.," 4s.; "A Reader and Admirer of John Bull" (H. Boughton) 10s.; "A Scot," 14s.; G. C. (Transvaal), 1s.; H. le P. 2s.; A. Y. (Edinburgh), 1s; Mrs. A., 9d.; C. H. (Transvaal), 2s. 2d.; "W." £1; S. P., 6d.; "Midlothian Scot" 7s.; "Newcastle," £1; J. F. (Cardiff), 6d.; R. B. (Berkhamsted), 6d.; R. D. (Huddersfield), 8d.; Pte. P., 6d.; P. H. and E. D. (Shortlands), 15s.; J. G. (Newhall), 3s. 3d.; F. H. (Dover), 1s. 8d.; J. P., 3s. 6d.; W. P. (Woolston), 1s.; J. S. (B.E.F.), 5 francs; "Taxi Driver 5278," 1s.; "Scottie," £1; C. D. W. (Gravesend), £1; "Gipsy," 6s.; "A Soldier's Wife and Children," 2s. 6d.; J. R. B. (Oxford), £9 10s.; F. B. (Brighton), 1s.; "Beda," 1s. 6d.

PELMANISM AND A BETTER BRITAIN.

Thousands helped to bigger pay and a higher standard of living.

"A Happier Britain" is one of the ideals of every patriotic man and woman. Through the darkest days of the war we were buoyed up with the thought that when the conflict was finished and the enemy crushed—then we would set to work to make this country a finer place for the people who live in it. For the returning soldiers, for their wives and their children, for the civilians who also "did their bit" in keeping the old place going, for every class and for every trade—we determined to build up a *Better Britain.*

Bear a hand everyone!

The fighting is over and that is still our resolve. We've a great work to do in this country of ours, which, mind you, is only at the beginning—and not at the end as Pessimists croaked in 1914—of its greatness. So vast is this work that it can only be done if every man and woman determines to bear a hand and to do a bit better than his or her best. But it has to be done, and it is *going to be done,* or 2,000,000 JOHN BULL readers "will know the reason why."

Away with the dismal Jimmies.

However, the grumblers and the pessimists are still with us. They shake their heads solemnly. "It will never be done," they say. "Look at the industrial unrest! Look at the ferment everywhere! Look at the strikes and the threats of strikes!" "Does all this look as though we are going to build a better Britain?" they ask with a sour smile. These people can't see the wood for the trees. A strike in the foreground spoils their perspective and hides the future from their view. They can't see below the surface of things. They are scared by the last headline in the latest newspaper. And they are wrong, hopelessly, absolutely wrong.

The meaning of the Industrial ferment.

Labour leaders may often be too hasty, just as professional politicians are often too slow. Rashness and recklessness at one end of the scale are as disastrous in their consequences as too much Dilly and Dally at the other. But rightly considered the ferment which is going on everywhere at the present time—and not only amongst what are called the working classes (as though we didn't all work) but amongst all classes and professions—is a sympton of the universal desire for a higher standard of comfort, for a life worth living in a Britain worth living in. And that in itself is a good symptom. It is a sign that the people are awake and that they do not intend that the old, sleepy pre-war conditions shall return.

"John Bull's" advice.

What is the cure for all this ferment? The Editor of JOHN BULL calls for a Home Conference to deal with the problems of domestic Peace. That is one plan—and a good one. It ought to be tried. But at the same time every reader ought to tackle these problems individually, and many are doing so. The demand is for a higher standard of living, for greater opportunities of advancement, for higher pay. In the long run this demand can only be satisfied by permanently increased efficiency. And this increased efficiency can only be secured by training our minds, and by developing our latent faculties. To use the words of Mr. Bottomley, we must "Pelmanise it."

Doubling personal efficiency.

The surest way of raising the standard of living is by raising the standard of individual capacity. Increased efficiency means increased production and increased production means increased pay and profits. By practising Pelmanism every man and woman can increase their personal efficiency and capacity and therefore increase their profits and pay. This is because every reader possesses latent powers which can easily and quickly be developed by scientific mental training. Everyone who practises Pelmanism can develop powers of Initiative, Observation, Judgment, Foresight, Will, Resourcefulness, Memory and Self-Confidence far beyond those exercised by the average person. These powers (and many others of equal value) exist in every mind, but in the majority of cases they have never been scientifically trained and developed. Owing to this the majority of men and women are not making the best use of their minds. They are working at a level of efficiency far below that to which they can easily attain as the result of a short course of Pelmanism. But now the Pelman Institute has come forward and has shown how by following a short and simple course of scientific mental training every man and woman can develop his or her latent powers, increase his or her efficiency, and actually *double or even treble his or her working powers and income-earning ability.*

An all round mental renaissance.

This is not merely a theory, it is a *fact,* and a fact attested by over 400,000 men and women (including 100,000 officers and men of the Army and Navy—150 Admirals and Generals amongst them) who have taken or are now taking the Pelman Course. The following letter recently received from a sergeant in the Army describes the kind of improvement Pelmanism brings about:

> "I have experienced," he writes, "an all-round mental renaissance. I have learned the meaning of mental efficiency . . . ; have been brought to realise the importance of a good **memory**; I have been taught how **to generate energy**; the efficiency of my senses has been wonderfully improved—I 'observe' now where I merely 'saw' before; my **Will-Power** has been greatly strengthened; I have learned to **think connectedly** and **to work methodically**; I have been shown how **to concentrate**; **self-confidence** and **initiative** have been developed; and my imagination has been stimulated. Other benefits I have derived . . . they are too numerous to enumerate—**they are all attributable to Pelmanism.** . . . Your exceptionally small fees are not at all commensurate with the exceeding value of your teaching." (M. 18571).

Doubled salaries and increased Profits.

As a result of practising Pelmanism and developing such qualities as are mentioned in this sergeant's letter thousands of men and women engaged in every form of Profession, Business and Trade are to-day earning rich rewards in increased profits, rapid promotion, enlarged businesses and higher pay.

> "After taking up Pelmanism for about three months I was offered a very high post. . . . This advancement, which **doubled my salary,** I attribute entirely to Pelmanism," writes a **Departmental Manager.**
>
> "Since my course of Pelman training I have **doubled my business,**" writes a **Shopkeeper.**
>
> "Since completing the Course I have obtained a position with a **salary exactly double** that which I was previously in receipt of," writes a **Clerk.**
>
> "I have secured **two rises in twelve months,**" writes a **Woman Worker.**
>
> "Since completing your Course **I added £80 to my commission account in 10 months.** My memory for prices and faces is almost perfect," writes a **Salesman.**
>
> "I can report an 'all-round' improvement since taking the Pelman Course. I have more confidence in myself, more interest in my work, **larger business returns, and increased remuneration,** a better memory, and a stronger will-power. The benefits derived from the system cannot be over-estimated," writes a **Manager.**
>
> "I found the Pelman Course most fascinating. It opened an entirely new outlook for me, and it has been the direct means of enabling me to pass into a closer confidence with my employers. Quite recently I received **a £50 advance,**" writes a **Textile Worker.**

The above are only a few examples of the thousands of letters received at the Pelman Institute from men and women reporting the great practical advantages they have gained from Pelmanism. Many describe how they have increased their incomes by 100 per cent., 200 per cent. and even 300 per cent. as a direct result of the increased efficiency brought about by this marvellous system.

Spreading like wild-fire.

Pelmanism is spreading like wild-fire through the Business, Professional and Industrial world as well as in the Army and Navy. Everywhere it is doubling efficiency, bringing about speedy Promotion and increase in income, and enabling thousands to secure a higher standard of living. It is removing a great deal of discontent by making work *interesting* as well as profitable to those engaged in it. Yet it is quite simple to follow and takes up very little time.

Full particulars of the Pelman Course are given in "Mind and Memory," which also contains a complete descriptive Synopsis of the 12 lessons. A copy of this interesting booklet, together with a full reprint of "Truth's" famous Report on the work of the Pelman Institute, and particulars showing how you can secure the complete Course at a reduced fee, may be obtained gratis and post free by any reader of JOHN BULL *who applies to the Pelman Institute, 15, Pelman House, Bloomsbury Street, London, W.C.1.*

Overseas Addresses: 46-48, *Market Street, Melbourne*; 15, *Toronto Street, Toronto*; *Club Arcade, Durban.*

THE original FREE Fire Insurance offer—see page 16.

"TOMMY AND JACK."

Dealing also with the Discharged Sailor and Soldier and their Dependents.

OUR PLEDGE.—"No case of hardship or injustice, no instance of beggarly treatment or mean cheeseparing, shall go unchallenged and unremedied."—*Horatio Bottomley*, 19th August, 1916.

"TOMMY."

The Delayed Post:—Our last mail from Baku tells us that the men there have not received any letters from England since August last. At the same time the brass hats and other big bugs get theirs!

The Torn Scrap:—Recruits for the New Army were assured that they would be given two months' furlough. In many cases, however, they have been told that they can have only twenty-eight days. Another instance of deplorable official dishonesty.

Badly Had:—Soldiers arriving at Dover with French and German money tell us that they find no official money exchanges there, but are immediately surrounded by sharks who are willing to change their notes at wickedly unfair rates. We hope that this hint will be sufficient for the authorities.

"Rotten Ripon":—The Management of the Y.M.C.A., might inquire why the boss of the Y.M.C.A. Station Hut at Ripon refused to give accommodation to a party of the 3rd Suffolks who arrived there recently at 11 p.m. The fellows had to remain in the open all night, and tell us that they "cursed the manager to all eternity," which was quite understandable.

Want of Heart:—We still deplore the hard-heartedness of Commanding Officers who refuse to grant leave to their men to see dying wives and other relatives, notwithstanding bedrock evidence sent to them by doctors, confirmed by the police. We desire to see the Army of Occupation completed, and regret that this retarding action on the part of O.C.s should continue. We intend to send specific cases to the War Council, in the hope that those guilty of such callousness may be sternly dealt with.

"JACK."

The Jerram Commission:—We are glad to know that the Report of the Jerram Commission will be presented in a week or so, and we can tell our lower-deck friends that there are some pleasant surprises in store for them and their families.

Where is the Money?:—The crew of H.M. Tug *Berenger* tell us that they did much rescue service, towing to port over seventeen ships disabled by enemy action. We understand that the salvage rewards have been made to the vessel, but none of the men has received his portion. Where is the money? The men of our Naval services have done splendid work, and are entitled to generous treatment.

Last In, First Out:—At Grimsby nearly a hundred and fifty minesweepers have been laid up, to be handed over to their owners. The crews have been demobilised, but the system appears to have been to discharge the men who joined last, and to keep on duty those who were in the Reserve Trawler Section before the war—which strikes us as being very unfair.

Virtue Its Own Reward:—When the s.s. *Admiral Cochrane* was sinking, the stokehold and engine-room were deserted. Engineman E. H. Wilbey went below and opened the shaft tunnel door, climbing over the hot cylinders to do so. He and the Second Engineer started the engines, and afterwards Wilbey went into the stokehold and single-handed stoked nine fires. They undoubtedly saved the ship, which was afterwards taken in charge by a crew that chanced to come up. It is amazing to hear that these two heroes have been told by the Admiralty that they are not entitled to any recognition.

"THE SILVER BADGERS."

Secretaries of discharged Sailors' and Soldiers' organisations, in sending cases of injustice or other information, should mark their envelopes "Silver Badgers."

Kicked Out:—It is hard to be kicked out by those who ought to be your friends. We have complaints from the Royal Military College at Camberley that the staff there is being reduced, and that the men selected for the order of the push are mostly Silver Badgers—which seems grossly unfair.

One More Victim:—Woodstock, Oxon, wanted a new Sergeant-at-Mace and Town Hall Keeper. Silver Badgers and a policeman went up for the position, the former having served in France and Salonica. Although Robert was never a soldier, and is fit for more strenuous labour, he got the job—the ex-soldiers being turned down.

Somewhat Strange:—An old Service man, with exemplary character, was sent by the Sailors' and Soldiers' Employment Association to take up the position of waiter at the United Services Club, Pall Mall. He found that the terms were 30s. a week; hours 8 a.m. to 9 p.m., 7 days a week, with one Sunday off in four. It was rubbed into him that if he took tips he would be instantly dismissed, and that he must provide his own white shirts. Like other Badgers, when confronted by similar economic problems, the man did not wait to be turned down by the Club—the members of which are officers of our Services.

The King's Fund:—We are not satisfied with the manner in which the King's Fund is being administered. Disappointed applicants who are undoubtedly entitled to help are turned down and come to us with their troubles. Some time ago a Badger applied for aid from the Staines Committee to get a camera and outfit, so that he might earn his living as a photographer. He was shown the door, on the grounds that he was a married man and that his wife did not go out to work. We are wondering how many wives of the King's Fund Committee turn out as charwomen and domestic helps.

RACING NOTES AND ANTICIPATIONS.

By "THE SQUIRE."

SELECTIONS FOR LINGFIELD AND KEMPTON PARK.

By the time these lines are read in London, we shall be having the second day at Lingfield—followed by the Kempton Park meeting, held at Sandown Park on Thursday and Friday. For the benefit of my London readers, I will repeat my Wednesday's selections, revised in the light of the Gatwick running. So far as that meeting is concerned, the outstanding feature, of course, was the fine display given by POETILYN, who has only to stand up at Liverpool to win the Grand National—especially now that WATERBED is under a cloud. Two other interesting items were the debut of CANUTE as a steeplechaser, and the easy victory of LONGERLINE in the Four-year-old Hurdle Race. CANUTE was jumping splendidly until he came down just before the last fence, and would, in my opinion, have won the race easily. Steeplechasing is evidently his game rather than hurdling. Little LONGERLINE, too, gave a faultless display, and, ridden by the Belgian jockey, Ashworth, now attached to the Dicker Stable, made hacks of her opponents.

There is some talk of endeavouring to match the old warrior BLIND HOOKEY against CORYDON, the suggestion being that Mr. Bottomley's horse should concede a stone—and next week I hope to be able to speak definitely on the subject.

It ought not to be difficult to find one or two good winners at Lingfield and Sandown Park, and I hope some of the following will be successful:—

LINGFIELD.
WEDNESDAY.

Baldwins Hurdle Race, SIPPET CHARLIE.
Houthley Steeplechase, MINSTREL PARK.
Penshurst Hurdle Race, CORYDON.
Wilderwick Steeplechase, LOMAN.
Haxted Hurdle Race, MACMERRY.
Lullenden Steeplechase, CAPTAIN DREYFUS.

KEMPTON PARK (Sandown Park).
THURSDAY.

Ashford Hurdle Race, ROYAL SIGNET.
Shepperton Steeplechase, MINSTREL PARK.
Trial Steeplechase, SCHOOLMONEY.
Rendlesham Hurdle Race, DRUMLANRIG.
Middlesex Steeplechase, BALLINCARROONA.
Thames Hurdle Race, MORNING STAR.

FRIDAY.

Portslade Selling Steeplechase, SHACCABAC.
Hounslow Hurdle Race, MACMERRY.
Kempton Park Steeplechase, BELL TOLL.
Bushey Park Hurdle Race, HOLLINS LANE.
Two Miles Steeplechase, TOADSTONE.
Littleton Four-year-old Hurdle Race, GAMELYN.

EVERYWOMAN'S
presents a
FREE COUPON PATTERN
each week, together with instructions how to make up.
FICTION. FASHION. NURSERY.
EVERYWOMAN'S 1d. Weekly.
THE Weekly Paper for the Home.

PRINTER'S PIE.

(Half-a-crown is paid to the sender of every item published under this heading. Envelopes must be marked "Pie.")

"PLYMOUTH CO-OPERATOR":—
"All plain work, such as soleing and heeling, is returned within ONE OR TWO DAYS. Toecapping and Vamping will TAKE LONGER—AS WE DO THEM PROPERLY."

"LIVERPOOL EXPRESS":—
"They (strawberries) were sold at an average wholesale rate of 0s. PER POUND. There is NOTHING REMARKABLE IN THAT FIGURE, which was the 'strawberry starting price' for many years before the war."

"WALTHAMSTOW, LEYTON AND CHINGFORD GUARDIAN" (advertisement):—
"Ladies' fawn tweed COATS (2) LARGE COLLAR TRICHORD, CHECK ACTION, BRILLIANT TONE."

"ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE REPORTER":—(advertisement):—
"The WHOLE of the ticket money is being expended on making the evening a thorough success. Any SURPLUS will be handed over to the District Infirmary."

"MANITOBA FREE PRESS":—
"Poland receives QUANTITY OF FLOUR:—. . Two POUNDS OF FLOUR have arrived here from Danzig. . . . IT will be DISTRIBUTED in this city . . . Allied officers will supervise sales of the flour and will PREVENT SPECULATORS FROM GETTING IT."

"DAILY MIRROR":—
"With regard to the food that we buy I have seen bakers' boys with dirty hands delivering the bread NAKED AND UNASHAMED."

"GLASGOW EVENING TIMES":—
"A friend of mine . . . has kept himself and his family immune from influenza IN A DISTRICT SORELY SMITTEN BY EATING SPRING ONIONS."

INFLUENZA RAGING
No house safe without
MILTON

Milton kills the influenza germs. It did great work in past influenza raids. A bottle of Milton will save a family. Don't wait for influenza to attack you—take the initiative. Protect your children too. Milton is clear and pure like water—harmless to the human constitution but death to the disease germs.

How to use MILTON for fighting influenza

Pour half a teaspoonful of Milton into a tumbler of tepid water. Gargle the throat or snuff it up the nose. An ordinary spray can be used for the latter purpose. Do this three times a day. Any man, woman, or child who does this, avoids crowded, overheated places, and takes ordinary care, will ward off the worst influenza.

Sold in 1/3 and 2/6 Bottles

MILTON has many uses, and full directions are given in a little booklet with each bottle

To be obtained from all dealers

MILTON MANUFACTURING Co., 125, Bunhill Row, London, E.C.1, & 64, Wellington St., Glasgow

VICTORIA
DOG BISCUITS
are now obtainable.

YOUR dog will relish the return of these famous biscuits of pre-war quality. Give him some of these biscuits and see for yourself. No more "what to feed" worries now that this healthy food is at last obtainable. Every atom of our Victoria Dog Biscuits is absolutely pure and highly nourishing, and they are the cheapest in the end because a healthy dog never needs the vet.

OSOKO

The paramount dog food before the war—and now. Every dog likes OSOKO. He will notice its beautiful white colour just as you have noticed the change in the colour of your bread. You like white bread—the dog likes it too. You can feed OSOKO dry, or moistened with water or gravy. Give your dog the best now that you can get OSOKO.

SIPPETS

The health-giving little biscuits that pet dogs—usually most fastidious—eat with gusto. SIPPETS make them healthy and happy.

Write for Practical Test Sample

Giving your own *and your Dealer's* Name and Address.

SPILLERS & BAKERS, LTD.
339 Bute Street, CARDIFF.
Makers of Victoria Poultry Foods.

IT'S BETTER TO RIDE A BICYCLE THAN HANG ON TO A STRAP.

CYCLING exercises every muscle of your body: hanging on to a strap only develops the biceps in your right arm.

And Dunlop tyres on a good bicycle make you independent of strap-hanging.

Dunlop

LONDON JOINT CITY & MIDLAND BANK LIMITED.

HEAD OFFICE: 5, THREADNEEDLE STREET, LONDON, E.C. 2.

Subscribed Capital	£34,472,848
Uncalled Capital	27,256,250
Paid-up Capital and Reserve Fund	14,345,398
Deposits	£334,898,438
Cash in hand and at Bank of England	63,756,271
Money at Call and at Short Notice	65,609,169
Investments	61,600,651
Bills of Exchange	39,249,296
Advances on Current and other Accounts	90,213,614
Advances on War Loans	14,218,201

OVERSEAS BRANCH: 65 & 66, OLD BROAD STREET, LONDON, E.C. 2.

Children Love Gibbs's

"Like a breeze in the mouth."

ITS agreeable flavour, slight lather, the delicious fresh and clean feeling it imparts to the mouth and gums make the use of Gibbs's Dentifrice a delight to the children as much as to adults. And neither they nor you could have a better Dentifrice.
The attractive lather which is immediately produced on the brush by Gibbs's Dentifrice entirely permeates the whole mouth, cleanses every crevice and interstice of the teeth and polishes and preserves the whiteness of the enamel as no other can do.

Gibbs's Dentifrice

Of all Chemists Price 6d.

Generous Trial Samples of Shaving Soap, Dentifrice and Cold Cream Soap sent on receipt of 3d. in stamps.

D. & W. GIBBS, Ltd. (Dept. 13),
Cold Cream Soap Works, LONDON, E.1
Estd. 1712.

BICYCLE BARGAINS.—Wrixon's for Clearance lists. Premiers, Humbers, Centaurs, Swifts, Triumphs, Rovers, Raglans, Court Royals, etc., grand bicycles from £8 19 6 cash (maker's price £15 15 0).—Grange King, Ltd., Great Cycle Dealer, Coventry

YOUR home is liable to destruction by Fire—seize opportunity offered on page 16.

"John Bull's" Letter Bag.

[The EDITOR replies to, and chats with, some of his numerous correspondents.]

CORRESPONDENTS ARE REQUESTED NOT TO SEND ORIGINAL CERTIFICATES, TESTIMONIALS, ETC., *as they are liable to be mislaid. Copies only should be forwarded in the first instance.*

LETTERS *must be addressed to the Editor or Publishers, 93, Long Acre, W.C.2, according to whether they relate to Editorial or Publishing matters.* FINANCIAL, INSURANCE, *or* LEGAL *enquiries should be addressed to the Financial, Insurance, or Legal Editor, and must each be accompanied by a postal order for one shilling. No fee is charged in respect of other enquiries. Full names and addresses should be given.*

CPL. J. T. G. (Long Eaton). The suggestion that we "made a lot of money out of a concert for soldiers" is, of course, simply a malicious lie. A minister who says that kind of thing stands more chance of the Old Bailey than of Heaven.

"BRITISH ISRAELITE." (Eastbourne).—Seems strange to advise us to read Genesis, to understand America. The conjunction appears chronologically cockeyed.

R. H. (Leytonstone).—"You ought to know how great a disadvantage it is for a man to be the father of children these days." Why ought we?

"SUGGESTION" (Bourne). "Agricultural labourers want" abolition of tied cottages and of hiring system; weekly half holiday, and one Sunday per month for stockmen, shepherds, etc.? A modest programme, which must be granted.

H. L. (Russell Square). It is true many lawyers have been among our friends. We also have an idea we have not been a bad friend to the lawyers!

P. L. (Wandsworth).—"The position of the *Kaiser* Couldn't possibly be worser." While as for the Clown Prince, His anxiety's intince.—Just to keep you in countenance.

J. T. (Edgbaston).—"I cannot refrain from writing to thank you." Much better to do it, then, rather than strain yourself.

"MOLLIE AND PHYLLIS" (near Warrington).—From your writing, can't make out if you are two "lovely land girls, or two "lonely" ones. So we will let it go at both. As for "gossip in the village," don't mind that. There never was a village without it.

E. A. V. (Bedford).—"Putting the wind up all wrong and evil-doers." An apt description of our holy office.

W. H. (Notts). The reason we do not print your letter is because, while agreeing with all you say, we put your own way of saying it.

E. O. (Oxford Street, W.).—Believe us that if George Washington rose from the dead, we should require evidence of his statements before printing them.

"ENGLAND FIRST" (London, W.1.).—"Has not the time arrived when menus should be written in plain English?" Undoubtedly when we can afford enough menu to write about.

W. J. S. and Others.—The Divorce Bills introduced in previous sessions lapsed with the dissolution of Parliament, and we shall have to commence *de novo*. It will be a difficult job to tackle.

I. W. (Gretna).—It is unjust to refuse a married woman with children the Out-of-Work Donation because she refuses to "sleep in." We have already commented upon such unnecessary conditions.

"SERGEANT."—"Has Mr. Bonar Law ever been Prime Minister?" Prime as far as he has gone, but he hasn't as yet gone as far.

PTE. E. C. (Brookdale Hospital).—Well, you have got a gag, to try the One Man Band gag on us. He is a chestnut, and the wind blows through his whiskers. He is the one man banned.

"ONE OF HER ADMIRERS" (Redhill).—Want to thank Miss Sarah Silvers, for singing to thousands of the boys in Calais and Dunkirk? But she would say it was a labour of love, inspired by her wonderful audiences.

A. (Walworth).—Rough to be treated as a new hand by L.G.O.C. because you enlisted without permission. We say no more lest it cause you trouble.

M. A. (Ayr).—"Why should a Bayswater hotel proprietor, seeking an experienced man to clean silver, advertise 'Japanese preferred'?" The question is beyond us; it seems just one of life's little mysteries.

"FRIEND OF TOMMY" (Tipperary).—"What have they the Y.M.C.A.—done with all the thousands of pounds subscribed by the general public?" Not put it on gee-gees, we hope.

"SUB-POSTMASTER" (Norwood) says pension papers for widows and discharged men can be signed not only by magistrates, &c., but by postmasters. It can be done at time of payment.

R. B. (Nottingham). Roll of Honour, Alderney Street, shows 49 men serving from 31 houses, 7 having paid the price of valour. A street fit for a King to live in.

"ONE WHO SAW IT" (Watford).—"Funeral parties in procession racing to get to cemetery first." Anybody in a hurry to be buried, try Watford.

G. L. L. (Redcliff, Bristol).—You come from the same place as the poet Chatterton. The resemblance ends there.

MRS. E. D. (Pentre Ystrad).—If you write a cinema plot, send it to any big producing firm. But never waste a penny on fees to so-called tutors or agents.

"A SOLDIER'S WIFE" (Bolton).—Your letter, addressed "To the Women of Great Britain," must have taken the wrong turning to have reached us. You should have directed it to the Editor of *Everywoman's*.

MRS. D. (Blackburn).—A soldier son who died in Egypt was certainly not "discharged." Knock this into the heads of the Civil Liabilities people. And keep on knocking till they answer.

"A TOMMY" (Bollington).—If you had to read shoals of letters in thin black ink and faint pencilling, you would kick at receiving "a few points" in blood red ink. We crime you for that, chum.

M. W. (Upper Rathbone Place, W.).—"I have written to the Great Promoter of the National Health Insurance, receiving a reply to say my letter would receive the attention of the Right Honourable Mr. Lloyd George, Prime Minister. In the meantime, I am still waiting." Perhaps he has popped off to Paris with your letter in his pocket.

MISS E. G. (Hove).—"Coal purchased by the Hove Corporation three years ago at 19s. a ton, now sold to the public at 2s. 7d. a cwt." The Corporation ought to be fired.

"STUDENT" (Bromley).—How should you treat students who are Bolshevists? Convert them with clubs.

C. R. (Portslade).—"The dining hall is not fit for pigs to sleep in. The maids' room is all wet." Who has been sleeping there?

"GREENGROCER" (B.E.F.).—"Is red cabbage a greengrocery?" Sometimes we almost think naughty boys who try to pull legs do not deserve free postage.

J. T. (Battersea).—Your letter begins, "Just a few lines." So we counted them—108. A few? Phew!

"A READER" (Marylebone).—Your friend has been swindled out of the 10s. he paid to a moneylender for "expenses." How silly for people seeking to borrow money to start by paying money out! That is what the sharks live on.

A. S. R. (Hove).—"I have written a poem." Sorry to hear it. "It comprises 30 odd lines." We like 'em even when we print any, but just now poetry is cut off at the main. To save gas.

H. B. W. (S.W.)—Tell you when taxi-cabs first came into public use? It was just about the time when horse cabs began to go into dis-use.

MRS. V. S. (Chelsea).—"I was refused a meal because I was unaccompanied by a man." As though that wasn't bad enough without going hungry.

"HYDE PARK" (London).—"Am valet to a Lord and so obtain from his lordship interesting matter. . . ." Will consider the revelations of the Lord unto you.

A. V. H. (Herefordshire).—As you say, it was "only natural" for the dog to chase the rabbit. Possibly the landowner who behaved so brutally over the incident had the same excuse.

S. F. (Nottingham).—If we told you that you "deserved the O.B.E.," we should expect you to be equally rude to us. Between ourselves, you deserved a large quencher.

A.C.L. (Tooting).—Useless to revive the story of the Page millions now. That page has been long turned down.

J. H. (Whalley).—"Saving for old age, as I am over 70." We must get that Income Tax altered, so as not to hinder your youthful thrift.

W. J. C. (Custom House).—"Flu is caused by inhaling the exhaust fumes from the motors, resulting from use of War Brand petrol."—*And* the next, please? Any other lady or gent like a shot?

R. J. (Southampton).—Only last week the First Prize of £300 was won by a "Bullet" submitted on a free "Target" Prize coupon. These coupons receive exactly the same thorough judging as those in respect of which entrance fees are paid.

"LUCY HOBBS, HEROINE."—We have had pleasure in forwarding to the mother of the little girl referred to under this heading, the following sums sent us by readers:—Mrs. M. B., 10s.; J. L. Y., 5s.; Nurse C., 10s.; Mrs. S. M. N., 2s. 6d.; Rfn. W. H. J., 10s.; H. H. M., £1; and "Babs," £1 1s.

SIGR. W. J. M. (Hurdcott).—Three months is a long time for a cable to take travelling to Australia, especially as it has not got there yet. The Secretary, G.P.O., may explain and refund, some fine day, if you worry him enough.

"A GUNNER N.Z." (France) says he is "one of many a dozen stuck about France doing nothing," though "eligible for immediate release." In that case, he should soon become unstuck.

W. J. MITCHELL (" Glenmore Street").—If you will forward your full address to our Pen Department, your JOHN BULL Pen will immediately be despatched to you.

C. D. L. (B.E.F.).—"Have you ever, with your all observant eye, walked into the waiting room at Charing Cross Station?" When we walk in with enquiring feet we will look for that German inscription on door of Ladies' Room. It must come off.

ANONYMOUS (Sheffield).—"Tell her to send me her sticky Back, so as I can put my star-gazers on it." If she isn't, she can't, and then you won't.

M. R. T. (Balham).—The moneylender who offers loans "Special to Ladies" should receive a deputation from husbands. It is a nasty dodge to cause family trouble.

A. P. (Acton).—We have no recollection of "advertising in . . . JOHN BULL (A young lady wanted, has been wanted for a long time)." Our Sub-editor would have got the sack if he had passed an announcement worded like that.

"HONEST MAN" (Devonport).—Found a lady's purse, took it to her, she did not say thanks, but wanted to know where you got it? It wasn't a lady's purse; just a purse, that's all.

"FORAGE GIRLS" (Kenilworth).—"We don't want a University for women workers." Then you shan't have the nasty thing, dears.

"DISAPPOINTED" (Wandsworth).—Your war bonus is like Faith; it is the substance of things hoped for; the evidence of things unseen.

(Many replies are unavoidably held over.)

MORE ABOUT

THE "JOHN BULL" PEN

THE NAVY AND THE "JOHN BULL" PEN.

H.M.S. "Blazer."

Dear Sir,

The "John Bull" Pen which you sent me is proving very satisfactory indeed. I am quite charmed with it and will not miss an opportunity of recommending it to all my friends. It surpasses any of the £1 1 0 pens I have used before, and I quite believe it to be more serviceable and durable.

Yours faithfully,

R. ASHFORD, Lieut. R.N.R.

"JOHN BULL" Pen Coupon. Value 2d.

By sending this Coupon with P.O. for 3s. and 1½d. stamps for postage, the holder is entitled to receive a "John Bull" Gold Nibbed Fountain Pen, STANDARD MODEL. Additional Coupons up to 6 from "John Bull" from this date may be saved and used in part payment, each counting as 2d. off the price. Thus, you may send 7 coupons, and P.O. for 2s. only, and 1½d. stamps for postage.

DE LUXE MODEL, 1s. Extra.

Address, Pen Dept., JOHN BULL, Long Acre, London, W.C.2. (*March 22nd, 1919.*)

P.O.'s should be made payable to John Bull, Ltd., and crossed & Co.

N.B.—State whether you prefer a Fine, Medium, or Broad Nib.

COMPANY MEETING.

CEREBOS, LIMITED.

NO PROFITEERING IN THE SALT TRADE.

The 15th annual meeting of the shareholders of Cerebos, Limited, was held on the 11th inst. at the Station Hotel, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Mr. W. H. Collins, Chairman and Managing Director, presiding.

The chairman, in moving the adoption of the reports and accounts, referred to the loss the company had sustained through the death of its late Chairman, Sir W. H. Stevenson.

After commenting upon certain of the items in the balance-sheet, the Chairman referred to the question of Excess Profits, and said that he made no apology for the company having made a few thousand pounds this year for the Chancellor of the Exchequer. They had had a record alike in sales, output and profit, and considering the difficult conditions, the shareholders were to be congratulated upon the result of the year's work.

A good deal had been said about profiteering, but when he reminded them that the dividend was passed during one year of the war, and that they only had to pay a few thousand pounds Excess Profit this year, the fourth of the war, he did not think they could be accused of profiteering. The figures were the natural results of the progress of an enterprising business. A great deal had been said in and out of Parliament as to the profits in the salt trade, but whilst the price and production of salt had not been actually controlled by the Food Controller, it might interest the shareholders to know that the Food Controller had *virtually* regulated everything in connection with salt for the last year or more.

Some time ago all the salt makers in this country were called together and a committee formed to consider the trade as a whole. The Chairman was appointed Adviser for the packet trade by the Ministry of Food and supported by all the other salt manufacturers in the country, and the fact that the Ministry of Food had not found it necessary to actually control goes to show that the salt manufacturers had been reasonable, and could not be accused of profiteering.

At the Ministry of Food, in the Costings Department, they possessed some of the most capable commercial auditors in the country, with a capable man as Secretary of the Salt Section, and a brilliant gentleman who had always presided over the meetings. The Ministry of Food had been so criticised and condemned that he was pleased to make these remarks as to the manner in which they had dealt with a most difficult problem. Salt was an article of essential food, and it was necessary for the Government to see that the production did not fall off, and they also saw that the salt makers did not have an extortionate margin of profit.

The Cerebos Company and the other salt manufacturers in this country had rendered good service to the Ministry and to the public, and they had all done their utmost to give their best service to the trade, and through them, the public, with the result that excepting for one or two temporary shortages, there had been no cause for anxiety as to the actual supply of salt.

With regard to the future, he had every confidence in this business and the articles sold, and he hoped that he might have as good, if not better, figures to present this time next year.

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted.

HAVE A SMOKE WITH ME

FREE OFFER CIGARS & CIGARETTES AT WHOLESALE PRICES.

Mr. Theeman, the **CIGAR SPECIALIST**, of Regent Street, offers to the British Public a **BOX OF 25 HAVANA LEAF** British made **CIGARS, 12/6 POST FREE. MONEY REFUNDED IN FULL IF NOT APPROVED, NO DEDUCTION BEING MADE FOR THE CIGAR THAT HAS BEEN SMOKED.**

High-class **Hand Made** Virginia **Cigarettes 7/- 100**
" " " Turkish " **8/- 100**
" " " Egyptian " **9/- 100**

All goods are sent post free and Money Refunded in Full—no deduction for postage.

Send Postal Order or cheque to my only address, THEEMAN, 24A, Regent Street, London, S.W.1.
Special terms to trade.

WHY LOOK OLD?

GREY HAIR

RESTORED IN 3 WEEKS.
DANDRUFF Cured in 7 DAYS.

A GUARANTEED REMEDY, WITHOUT DYES.—The effect is natural; hair gradually becomes its natural shade until the true colour of youthful days is attained. The shade remains so; and keeps the same year after year. To prove its worth, a trial treatment and particulars, with a cake of medicated soap to prevent greyness, sent privately for 3d. postage, P. LIND, Chemist, 611, Clyde House, 489a, Oxford St., London, W.1. **TEST IT FREE**

2½d. per packet at sweet shops and chemists

A CHICLE A

Good chewing gum is known by this mark

Adams and Beemans "A-Chicle-A" mark appears on every box, every packet, every stick. Remember it.

"Chicle" is the name given to the sap of a Mexican tree which when refined, filtered and sterilized, becomes the finest chewing Gum in the world. Adams and Beemans "A-Chicle-A" brand is absolutely pure.

"A-Chicle-A" chewing Gum is prepared in a variety of exquisite flavours and is the favourite sweetmeat to-day.

Try SPEARMINT—the fine old-world flavour

ADAMS PURE CHEWING GUM

Adams Black Jack
Adams Chiclets
Adams Pepsin
Adams Spearmint
A CHICLE A
Adams California Fruit
Adams Yucatan
Adams Sen-Sen
Beemans Pepsin

ADAMS & BEEMANS, LTD., 56, Newcomen St., Southwark, London, S.E.

THE LAMP THAT THROWS A LIGHT ON THE PROBLEM OF EFFICIENCY WITH ECONOMY.

MADE THROUGHOUT AT HAMMERSMITH.

Osram G.E.C. LAMPS

GAMAGES

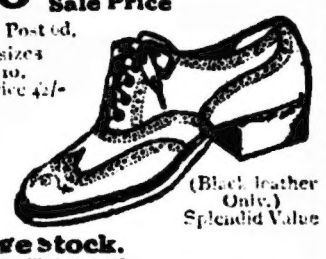
FIRST GREAT "After-the-War" SALE.

It is no good playing with "Reconstruction." We have made sure of our New Stocks; we are determined to clear our present. Hence the persuasive prices in this Sale.

BARGAIN IN THE BOOT DEPT.

BIG CONSIGNMENT YOUTHS' STOUT, BLACK LEATHER DERBY SHOES.
Sizes, 2, 3, 4 and 5. Fine Quality Black Leather Uppers and a Good Sturdy Sole. Specially adapted for school and general wear.
Special Sale Price 20/9 Per Pair. Post 6d.

GENTS' BROGUE SHOES.
800 Pairs **Best Quality Black Waterproof MOOR CALF.** Stout Butt Leather Soles; wear and comfort guaranteed.
31/6 Sale Price
Per pair; Post 6d. In all sizes 6 to 10. Usual Price 42/-



(Black leather Only.) Splendid Value

Salvage Stock.
Best Quality Waterproof DUBBIN
Renders leather perfectly supple and absolutely waterproof. No disagreeable odour left on leather after using. Per doz. **Sale Price 1/9** Post 6d.
Large size tins, not less than 1 doz. sold.

THE 20TH CYCLING OR WALKING SHOES.
Sizes 5, 6, 7, 10 and 11 in Black. Sizes 5, 6, 7 & 11 in Brown.
Sale Price 9/11 per pair. Post 6d.

Write for **SALE LIST** POST FREE containing a selection of unprecedented bargains from all departments.

HOSIERY BARGAINS

KHAKI DRILL TRAINING SHIRTS.
For Scouts' wear, &c., and all who require a Soft Shirt with collar attached, 2 pleat pockets and shoulder straps.
Sale Price **3/4½** Post 6d. for 1, 2 or 3.

SOCKS.
450 dozen Fawn and Grey Fleece Lined Half Hose. Soft and comfortable, no seam to hurt feet. Perfectly unshrinkable.
In this Sale **1/9½** per pair, **21/-** dozen. Postage per dozen 9d.

VICTORY RATTLES.
Extra Strong.
SPECIAL PURCHASE. Metal frame and spindle. Size 11 × 4½ ins.
Sale Price **2/11** each. Post 6d.
Worth **5/11**

HOLBORN, LONDON, E.C.1

Why pay Fire Insurance Premiums—see page 16.

HOW TO MAKE "BULLETS."

First choose any of the Forty examples given below. Then give **TWO, THREE** or **FOUR** words having some bearing on the example chosen. Any **ONE** of the words selected must begin with any letter in the example chosen. The other words selected can begin with any letters in the alphabet. These examples will guide you:—Example:—A WISE MAN. Bullet:—NEEDS TO SEVEN STARVES. Example:—Who's BOSS? Bullet:—MASTER OF MAN. Competitors may send in two BULLETS for sixpence. If more coupons are used an entry fee at the rate of 6d. for each coupon must be sent. Result of this competition will be found in our issue dated April 19th.

LIST OF EXAMPLES FOR "BULLETS" COMPETITION No. 325.

ENGLAND'S GLORY	GERMANY'S BUSINESS	THE MINERS HOPE	WILSON THINKS THAT
THE PRIME MINISTER	TAKING HIS MEDICINE	CHANGED TIMES	LYING LOW
WHAT BOTTOMLEY PROMISES	ENOUGH SAID	FIGHTING FOR EXISTENCE	DANGER TO STATE
WORTH HAVING	STAND AND DELIVER	SQUARING UP	WITHOUT SUCCESS
WHAT MOTHER LIKES	NO KID	NOT WANTED HERE	SPOILING THE BAG
NOT FOR SALE	HIS FIRST SPOON	SPRING CLEANING	WHO'S BOSS?
UPSIDE DOWN	LOOKING SMALL	A BIG NAVY	LIKE HIS DAD
THERE'S NO TELLING	STRIKE LEADERS	A GOOD DAY'S WORK	ARGUING WITH WIFE
SLIPPERY CUSTOMER	ASKING TOO MUCH	THE BEST WAY	UTTER RUBBISH
MARY ANN	SHAKING HANDS	A WISE MAN	THE KAISER'S HEAD

No. ____ Closing Date, Thursday, April 3rd.
Example _____
Bullet _____
Example _____
Bullet _____
(325) P.O. No. _____
I agree to enter this Competition in accordance with the rules and conditions announced on this page.
If 1 coupon is used P.O. for 6d. must be sent.
Signed _____
Address _____

IF UNABLE TO SECURE EXTRA COUPONS YOU CAN WRITE YOUR "BULLETS" ON PLAIN PAPER.

No. ____ Closing Date, Thursday, April 3rd.
Example _____
Bullet _____
Example _____
Bullet _____
(325) P.O. No. _____
I agree to enter this Competition in accordance with the rules and conditions announced on this page.
If 2 coupons are used P.O. for 1/- must be sent.
Signed _____
Address _____

ENVELOPES SHOULD BE MARKED "BULLETS" No 325. "JOHN BULL," LONG ACRE, LONDON, W.C.2

No. ____ Closing Date, Thursday, April 3rd.
Example _____
Bullet _____
Example _____
Bullet _____
(325) P.O. No. _____
I agree to enter this Competition in accordance with the rules and conditions announced on this page.
If 3 coupons are used P.O. for 1/6 must be sent.
Signed _____
Address _____

No. ____ Closing Date Thursday, April 3rd.
Example _____
Bullet _____
Example _____
Bullet _____
(325) P.O. No. _____
I agree to enter this Competition in accordance with the rules and conditions announced on this page.
If 4 coupons are used P.O. for 2/- must be sent.
Signed _____
Address _____

Selection of Examples for "Bullets" Competition No. 326.

SETTLING THE TROUBLE—PURE AND SIMPLE—STRIKING TOGETHER—WITHOUT CAPITAL—WHEN BOSS ARRIVES—DAY OF RECKONING—THE EDITOR—STRICTLY PRIVATE—A FAIR BARGAIN—A BOLD SPEECH—WILSON'S WAY—GIVE AND TAKE—IN THE TUNNEL—KISSING THE MAID—TEMPTING—HELPING TOMMY—VISITING UNCLE—LOSING HIS MONEY—THE OLD STORY—A DRY SERMON

These examples can be made use of on the coupons above, and must reach us on or before **THURSDAY, APRIL 10th.** All coupons so used **MUST** be clearly marked with the number **326**, in the top left-hand corner, and envelopes containing these coupons must be addressed "Bullets" **No. 326**" John Bull," Long Acre, London, W.C.2. Such coupons must not contain any of the Forty examples for Competition 325.

List of 10s Prize-winners in "Bullets" Competition 322 will be published in next week's "Competitors' Journal." Complete List of all Cash and other Prize-winners can be seen at the Offices of "John Bull."

Result of 322nd 'Bullets' Competition.

FIRST PRIZE OF £250:

Mr. FRANK P. JAMES,
11, Kelvin Grove,
Liverpool.

Example:—THE RIGHT STUFF.
Bullet:—THE SOCIALISM TRENCHES TAUGHT.

SECOND PRIZE OF £20:

Mr. EDWARD HOLE,
21, Lonsdale Terrace, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

Example:—HOW MONEY GOES.
Bullet:—OFTEN FASTER THAN "FAVOURITE."

THIRD PRIZE OF £10:

Gunner F. PERKE, R.G.A.,
55, Longfield, Prestwich, Lancs.

Example:—MOST DIFFICULT TO.
Bullet:—REAR YOUNGSTERS ON ADVICE.

10 PRIZES OF £5 EACH:

MR. R. CROSBY, 133, Fitzwilliam Street, Sheffield: MAKING MISCHIEF—THE HUN "AT HOME."
MR. A. BROOKSBANK, 12, Darley Street, Leicester: THE RIGHT STUFF—THE "RING" TESTS.
MR. D. A. MILLS, 228, Molyneux Road, Liverpool: THE NEW WORLD—WHEN HUNS OCCUPY ANOTHER.
MRS. L. J. BANNER, 63, Sutherland Square, Walworth, S.E.: NOTHING BETTER THAN—PROFITEERING, FOR MAKING BOLSHEVISTS.
MR. W. CLARK, "Viewfield" Currie, Edinburgh: WHY NOT?—PROCEED WITH SOME "EXECUTION."
MR. T. PRICE, 73, East Street, Kidderminster: GETTING BUSY—CRITICS BEFORE HELPERS USUALLY.
MR. P. J. CURRID, R.I.C., Killarney, Co. Kerry: HOW MONEY GOES—INNER MAN—OUTER WOMAN.
MR. J. DUNNICLIFF, Beech Stores, Stapenhill, Burton-on-Trent: THE BOLSHEVIK PERIL—SUITS GERMANY, DURING NEGOTIATIONS.
MR. W. F. VERNON, 31, George Street, Port Talbot, S. Wales: OWING TO TOMMY—GERMANY'S "RAGING"—NOT BATTLE.
MR. H. E. BOARDMAN, 5, Highthorne View, Armley: AFTER THE HONEYMOON—DIFFERENCE AND INDIFFERENCE. (Sent in on a Free "Target" Prize Coupon).

10 PRIZES OF £2 10s. EACH:

MR. G. DARBOURN, Wokingham Rd., Well. Coll. Sta., Berks: OWING TO TOMMY—WORLD'S UNSAFE FOR AUTOCRACY.
MISS M. WILLIAMS, The Maltsters, Bontnewydd, Carn.: WONDERFUL WOMAN—UNTIL SOMEBODY TELLS HER.
MR. B. STOCK, Royston, Herts: SOFT SOAP—DENTIST'S "THIS WON'T HURT."
MR. H. WISEMAN, Avon Royd, Hoole Rd., Chester: BOTTOMLEY'S BUSINESS—MAKING "EASY CHAIRS" UNCOMFORTABLE.
MR. E. JEFFERY, 3, Kent Villas, Kendal: LIKE OLD TIMES—MOTHER DOESN'T DREAD POSTMAN.
MRS. J. WILLIAMSON, The Laurels, Harrold, Beds: WAITING—THE REWARD OF PUNCTUALITY.
MR. H. H. FENNER, Castle Road, Rowlands Castle, Hants: MOST DIFFICULT TO—MATCH "ONLY SURVIVOR'S" IMAGINATION.
MR H. G. WEBBER, Escot Westbury, Sherborne, Dorset: BOTTOMLEY'S BUSINESS—KEEPS HIM "ON FEET."
MR. G. WAUGH, Griffin Street, Workington: PROVOKING THOUGHT—"TOUCH" BUT "NO GO."
MR. A. B. PLANK, 463, West Derby Road, Anfield: THE BOLSHEVIK PERIL—COMBAT "BY ALL MEANS."

BULLETS RULES.

1. The First Prize will be awarded for what, in the opinion of the Judges, in consultation with the Editor, is the best "Bullet" received, and the other prizes in order of merit, the test being cleverness, aptness and originality. The right to divide a prize or prizes among two or more competitors is reserved

2. Bullets must be plainly written on one of the coupons and only two attempts may be written on each coupon.

3. All four coupons may be used, but each coupon must be accompanied by a postal order for 6d. made payable to JOHN BULL and crossed _____ and Co. _____ Competitors must write their names and addresses and the date of sending the order on the back of the postal order, the number of which must be duly noted on each coupon submitted. Competitors sending more than one coupon may enclose one postal order for the full amount covering the number of their coupons. Coupons must not be defaced in any manner.

4. All coupons arriving too late to be judged with absolute thoroughness will be duly returned to their respective senders.

5. The Editor undertakes that every Bullet received shall have careful consideration by a competent staff of qualified judges.

6. The Editor's decision on any matter of dispute arising in connection with this competition must be accepted as final and legally binding in all respects, and acceptance of this rule is an express condition of entry.

THE JOHN BULL GREAT FREE FIRE INSURANCE

COVERING ALL RISKS BY FIRE TO HOME, LIFE & LIMB

UNDER this most unique FREE INSURANCE OFFER anyone above the age of 10 can be insured irrespective of sex. The premium charged by any Fire and Accident Insurance Company to secure similar benefits would certainly exceed 6s. per annum. We offer it to you absolutely free.

We have made our insurance as simple and comprehensive as possible, and shall not bother about any "Legal representative" or "next of kin." Claims will be paid to the registered reader, who must personally sign the coupon, or to the person nominated thereon, and to no one else.

A separate coupon must be filled up in respect to each person to be insured.

This offer applies only to persons residing in, and property situated in, England, Scotland, and Wales.

The full conditions governing this scheme will be published in the first issue of each month.

WHAT WE WILL PAY:

For Damage to contents of Home by Fire up to	£200
In case of Death directly due to Fire at Registered Reader's home	£200
For the Loss of Two Limbs or Both Eyes, or One Limb and One Eye	£200
For the Loss of One Limb or One Eye ..	£100
Medical Fees for Injuries not proving fatal but incapacitating the injured person from following his, or her, employment, up to ..	£10
In the event of a Temporary Total Disablement up to 13 weeks..	£1 per week

ORDER FORM

TO BE RETAINED BY NEWSAGENT.

To .....
Newsagent.

Please deliver "JOHN BULL" to me regularly until further notice

Signed .....

Address .....

March 22, 1919.

You must also fill in the Registration Form, which will be found next to this, and post it to JOHN BULL Insurance Dept., 93, Long Acre, London, W.C.2, where your name and the name of your nominee will be duly registered.

REGISTRATION FORM

Which must be posted to—
JOHN BULL INSURANCE DEPT., Long Acre, W.C.2.

This is to notify that I have this day placed an order for the regular weekly supply of JOHN BULL with

.....Newsagent, of

.....

and desire you to register me as a regular subscriber under the terms of your Insurance Scheme.

In the event of my being injured or killed, or of my home or its contents being damaged, I hereby nominate to receive any payment due under this insurance, first myself, or in the event of my death:—

Name of Nominee .....

Address .....

Signature of Insured .....
(Mr., Mrs., or Miss)

Home Address .....

March 22, 1919. .....

To remain qualified for the benefits, readers must continue to have "John Bull" regularly supplied to them.

Enclose 1d. stamp if an acknowledgment of receipt of Registration Form is required.

WIVES

will do away with the labour of floor scrubbing if they have their floors covered with Catesbys famous CORK LINO. This is the original Cork Lino, wears for years, and looks well all the time. Look at the money it saves! Patterns and prices free if you mention this paper.—**Catesbys Ltd.** (Dept 19), Tottenham Court Road, London, W.1.

CORK LINO

Furniture

If a reliable, good-looking Furniture you want, write to List No. 19. **CATESBYS Ltd. London, W.1.**

Easy Terms

Mens Suits

Would you like on Easy Terms a better Suit than any other Tailor can make you at the price? Then send a postcard (but ask for Suit Set No. 9) and we'll send you a free set of real British patterns, Book of Styles, and Measure-yourself Form. If you are not pleased with the suit we guarantee your money back without delay or demur. 5/- in the £ discount for cash. Write before the best patterns are sold out and ask for No. 19.

CATESBYS Ltd.,

Tottenham Court Road, London, W.1.

GRAMOPHONE and RECORDS on EASY TERMS

Write for No. 19 Free Illustrated List of fine tone Gramophones at reasonable prices. **CATESBY Ltd., London, W.1.**

"De Reszke" AMERICAN CIGARETTES

"De Reszke" *American* Cigarettes have won the whole-hearted admiration of many notable men and women. The following* is a selection of the many opinions given:—

"De Reszke" Space Suiters

Oscar Asche, Esq., writes:—"I have tried the 'De Reszke' *American* Cigarettes and found them most excellent. I shall have pleasure in placing an order for some."

Arnold Bennett, Esq. writes:—"Mr. Arnold Bennett likes the 'De Reszke' *American* Cigarettes very much, and he will be obliged if you will send him another box."

**Other opinions in other "De Reszke" advertisements*

Sold at all Military Canteens at Home and Overseas, also Tobacconists and Stores

JUST SEND 1/-

and I will send you a pair of Ambron Gold Medal Corsets that will give you comfort, grace and lasting satisfaction. From a Health point of view the Ambron Corset is pre-eminent. There is no other Corset like it.

The full price of the Ambron Corset is only 8/11, but all I ask you to send is a P.O. for 1/-. The Corset will be sent by return and the balance of 7/11 may be paid in one sum or by weekly instalments of 1/-, whichever you prefer.

Simply cut out this advertisement, pin to a piece of paper, quote measurements over Bust, Hips and Waist, give your full name and address, and enclose postal order for One Shilling. If you do not approve of corset, it may be returned and your cash will be refunded at once. Take advantage of this offer to-day and become one of the many thousands of happy wearers of the Ambron Gold Medal Health Corsets. Kindly include 3d. to cover part cost of postage, and cross P.O. thus //. Address your order to

Ambrose Wilson, Ltd., 300, Allen House, 70, Vauxhall Bridge Road, LONDON, S.W.1.

"GRASSHOPPER" DRAWS OUT THE POISONS

GRASSHOPPER is the only advertised remedy which is guaranteed to cure CHILBLAINS (whether BROKEN or UNBROKEN), BOILS, CARBUNCLES, SORE and SWOLLEN FEET, POISONED WOUNDS, RINGWORM AND SCALP SORES.

For 50 years **GRASSHOPPER OINTMENT** has been absolutely unexcelled as a safe and certain cure for the MALADIES mentioned. It cures by removing the cause, which is to be found in poisoned and diseased blood. The ointment draws out the virus from the blood and tissues, and assures an early and complete recovery. **GRASSHOPPER OINTMENT** can also be used for CUTS, BURNS, SCALDS, SCRATCHES, STINGS and BRUISES, as its healing, antiseptic properties have been found to be unsurpassed by those of any other preparation. **GRASSHOPPER** is absolutely harmless. Do not be persuaded to purchase any imitation and substitute preparations. May be obtained from Boots, Timothy White's, Taylors Drug Co. and all Chemists and Stores, at 1/3 a box, or direct, post free from ALBERT & Co., 73, Farringdon Street, London, E.C.4.

EQUIP YOURSELF

with one of Inglis' Modern LABOUR SAVING Reckoners

THE 'EXPRESS' READY RECKONER . . 2/6

other vols. for Percents.; Profit; Cwts; Tons; Wages; Interest; Prices **2/-** each.

THE 'RAPID' READY RECKONER 1/3

other volumes for Discounts; Cwts and lb; Wages . . . . . **1/-** each.

Stocked by all Progressive Booksellers and Stationers.

Gall & Inglis, Publishers, 20, Bernard Ter., Edinburgh & London

GRAVES OF SHEFFIELD

Write for patterns, post free, of Suits, Costumes, Coat Frocks, Robes, Raincoats, Dress Materials, Household Drapery, etc., or Catalogues of Watches, Jewellery, Workers' and Boys' Clothing, Footwear, Sheffield Cutlery, Gramophones and Records, Lino, Carpets, Trams, Cycles, Tyres, Réclames and Bedding, Sewing Machines, Furniture, Poultry Appliances, etc.

EASY J. G. GRAVES LTD. SHEFFIELD **TERMS**

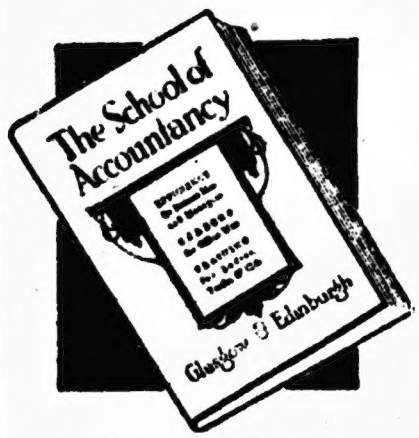
SELECTED SEED POTATOES.

Duke of York, Sharpes Victor, 1/- 28 lbs., 12/- 56 lbs., 20/- 112 lbs. Ninety-fold, Express, Llewellyn, Eclipse, 4/- 28 lbs., 7/6 56 lbs., 13/- 112 lbs. British Queen, Queen Mary, Royal Kidney, Up-to-Date, King Edward, Iron Duke, 3/- 28 lbs., 5/6 56 lbs., 10/- 112 lbs. Bags free. F.O.R., Wisbech. Cash with order. Send for List. Try my Special Weed Killer, 95/- cwt.

W. AMOS, F.R.H.S., Seedsman, Wisbech, Cambs.

£300 £600 £1000 a year!

You can fix your own salary if you train for it.



FREE BOOK.

This booklet, which is free and post free, gives particulars of the various courses of study, for these differ according to individual requirements. It gives the names and addresses of students who have "made good" and to whom reference can be made. Write for a copy to-day if you want £300, or £600, or £1000 a year. Train for the big sums and you will get them.

FREE BOOK.

THE SCHOOL OF ACCOUNTANCY, 2, West Regent Street, GLASGOW.

Please send me, free and post free, copy of booklet advertised in "John Bull," 22/3/19

NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

.....

This is a plain, true statement of fact. It is no exaggeration. Employers everywhere are looking for trained men as Organisers, Office and Works Managers, Accountants, etc., and are willing to pay high salaries if they can get the right men.

Such men are not born. They are made by training and study. Scores of men who were ordinary office clerks are now holding positions and getting big salaries. These didn't come by "waiting for something to turn up." The men put in their spare time in study and training under expert guidance. Are you sufficiently enthusiastic and ambitious to follow their example?

The School of Accountancy offers this expert guidance and training through its postal courses. The efficiency of its training has been amply demonstrated and proven—it is not an experiment. It gives personal training adapted to the student's circumstances, his peculiar requirements, his capacity, the time at his disposal. It leads him, step by step, to the completion of his training. Some finish the course in a few months, others take much longer. It depends upon the time devoted to study and the aptitude of the pupil. The moderate fee is in any case the same.

LIVERPOOL VICTORIA FRIENDLY SOCIETY.

Head Office: 57, ANDREW STREET, LONDON, E.C.4.

CLAIMS PAID **£13,500,000**

INVESTED IN WAR LOAN.....**£2,460,000**

AMOUNT PAID IN WAR CLAIMS NEARLY...**£700,000**

Life and Endowment Assurances at Popular Rates.

Our numerous Branch Offices and Agents throughout the Kingdom transact National Health Insurance.

ARTHUR HENRY, Secretary.

PLEX THE DUPLICATOR

(British as the Union Jack.)

15/-

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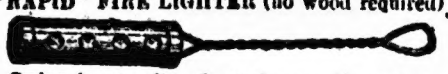

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